



EQUITY ENRICHMENT ALLIANCE  
SHAPING A FAIR FUTURE

# CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

## G.E.M. CONFERENCE

Generationally Enhancing  
Males of Color

**MAY 18TH, 2024**

**9AM TO 6PM**

501 Crescent St  
New Haven, CT 06515

### CONTACT

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# INTRODUCTION



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As you may already know:

**Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) in Connecticut face significant challenges in education and success after high school.** According to the Connecticut State Department of Education, in the 2019–2020 school year, **the high school graduation rate for BIPOC students was 79.2%, compared to 92.1% for white students.**

Additionally, **BIPOC students are more likely to be suspended or expelled from school than their white peers.** These disparities continue into higher education. According to a report by the Lumina Foundation, only 23.4% of BIPOC adults in Connecticut have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 44.3% of white adults.

This is despite the fact that **BIPOC students make up a significant portion of the state's public school population.** Furthermore, **BIPOC students are more likely to face financial barriers to higher education.** According to the Connecticut Voices for Children, BIPOC students are more likely to come from low-income families and to have higher levels of student debt.

**These challenges have significant implications for the success of BIPOC individuals after high school.** According to the Connecticut Department of Labor, the unemployment rate for Black or African American individuals in Connecticut was 12.7% in 2020, compared to 6.1% for white individuals.

Similarly, the poverty rate for Black or African American individuals in Connecticut was 19.1% in 2019, compared to 5.4% for white individuals. In summary, BIPOC individuals in Connecticut face significant challenges in education and success after high school, including lower graduation rates, lower levels of educational attainment, and higher levels of student debt.

These challenges have significant implications for their economic success and well-being.

## HERE'S WHERE WE CAN HELP



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We would like to propose a conference focused on improving the lives of BIPOC males in our inner cities such as **Waterbury, Hartford, Bridgeport, Danbury & New Haven.**

**The conference will bring together educators, community leaders, and experts in the field to discuss strategies for addressing the challenges faced by BIPOC males in our inner cities and promoting their success.**

The conference will feature keynote speakers, network opportunities, and workshops focused on topics such as:

- **Addressing the achievement gap**
- **Promoting mental health and well-being for BIPOC males**
- **Addressing systemic barriers to success and its impact on BIPOC males**
- **Promoting positive male role models and mentorship**
- **Promoting entrepreneurship and economic empowerment**

The conference will provide a platform for educators, community leaders, and experts to share their experiences and insights, and to collaborate on strategies for promoting the success of BIPOC males in our inner cities.

**By bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders, we hope to foster a dialogue that will lead to meaningful change in our communities.** We believe that Southern Connecticut State University is uniquely positioned to host this conference, given its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion as well as its centralized location.

We look forward to working with you to make this conference a success and to promote the success of BIPOC males in our inner cities.



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# ABOUT US



The Equity Enrichment Alliance is a 501(c)(3) formed to promote and advance equity objectives through education and enrichment programs for minority children across the state of Connecticut. Our non-profit organization is dedicated to creating a more inclusive and equitable society by addressing the systemic barriers that hinder the educational and personal development opportunities for minority children.

Our primary focus is to empower and uplift minority children by providing them with access to quality education, resources, and opportunities that are often limited due to socio-economic disparities and systemic biases. We believe that every child, regardless of their background, deserves an equal chance to succeed and thrive.

## Key Objectives:

1. **Education Access and Support:** We strive to bridge the educational gap by providing minority children with equal access to quality education. We work towards ensuring that they have the necessary resources, tools, and support systems to excel academically.
2. **Enrichment Programs:** We offer a wide range of enrichment programs that go beyond traditional classroom education. These programs aim to enhance the overall development of minority children by providing them with opportunities to explore their interests, develop critical thinking skills, and build self-confidence.
3. **Advocacy and Awareness:** We advocate for policies and practices that promote equity in education. Through community engagement, partnerships, and public awareness campaigns, we seek to raise awareness about the challenges faced by minority children and the importance of creating a more equitable educational system.
4. **Mentorship and Guidance:** We provide mentorship programs that connect minority children with positive role models who can guide and inspire them. These mentorship relationships help foster personal growth, build resilience, and provide support in navigating challenges.
5. **Collaboration and Partnerships:** We actively collaborate with schools, community organizations, and stakeholders to create a network of support for minority children. By working together, we can leverage resources, expertise, and collective efforts to maximize our impact and create lasting change.



**SEAN T. ALLEN SR**  
Founder/  
Educator

## MEET OUR BOARD



**DR. ARLENE GARCIA**  
Vice President/  
Educator



**RAFAEL LOZANO**  
Secretary/  
Entrepreneur



**JACQUELYN WALKER**  
Tech Director/  
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**VIVIANA CAMACHO**  
Advisory Council/  
Superintendent



**JOSHUA VAUGHN**  
Advisory Council/  
Community Impact



**LEONARD EPPS**  
Advisory Council/  
Educator



**JULIANA RIBEIRO**  
Advisory Council/  
Social Worker



**SASHA SALEM**  
Advisory Council/  
Assistant Principal



**ALFREDO CALDERON**  
Advisory Council/  
Funding Coordinator

## ABOUT THE EVENT

The importance of a conference **specifically designed for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) students in the Connecticut education system cannot be overstated.** In many educational institutions, there is a significant lack of representation and emotional support for these students, which can have detrimental effects on their academic performance, behavior, and overall well-being. By organizing a conference that addresses these issues and provides experiential workshops conducted by men of color, targeted towards young minorities in high schools in **Danbury, Waterbury, Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport areas, several benefits can be achieved.**

**1. Representation and Empowerment:** The conference would provide a platform for BIPOC students to see successful individuals who look like them and have overcome similar challenges. This representation can be immensely empowering, inspiring students to believe in themselves and their potential. When students see people who share their racial or ethnic background succeeding academically and professionally, they are more likely to set high aspirations for themselves and strive for excellence.

**2. Emotional Support and Understanding:** BIPOC students often face unique social and emotional challenges due to systemic racism, discrimination, and cultural biases. The conference can offer a safe and supportive environment where students can openly discuss their experiences, concerns, and emotions. Men of color conducting the workshops can share their personal stories and serve as relatable role models who understand the specific struggles faced by these students. This support can help alleviate feelings of isolation, foster a sense of belonging, and promote mental well-being.

**3. Addressing Behavior Issues:** The lack of representation and emotional support can contribute to behavior issues among BIPOC students. These students may feel marginalized, misunderstood, or unfairly treated, leading to frustration and acting out. By providing a conference that focuses on their needs, it can help address underlying issues and provide strategies for dealing with challenges in a positive and constructive manner. The workshops can emphasize personal development, conflict resolution, and effective communication skills, empowering students to navigate difficult situations and make better choices.

## ABOUT THE EVENT CONTINUED

**4. Tackling Chronic Absenteeism:** Chronic absenteeism is a prevalent issue among BIPOC students, often stemming from various factors, including disengagement, lack of motivation, and a sense of exclusion. The conference can serve as a catalyst for change by rekindling students' interest in education, fostering a sense of belonging, and highlighting the importance of attendance. Through interactive workshops, students can explore their own interests, discover opportunities, and understand the long-term benefits of education, motivating them to attend school regularly.

**5. Networking and Mentorship Opportunities:** The conference can serve as a platform for networking and mentorship, connecting BIPOC students with professionals and leaders from various fields. Building these relationships can provide invaluable guidance, advice, and support as students navigate their educational journey and consider future career paths. By fostering these connections, the conference can help bridge the opportunity gap, opening doors for internships, scholarships, and other resources that can positively impact students' lives.

**In summary, organizing a conference specifically for BIPOC students in the Connecticut education system lacking representation and emotional support can have transformative effects.** By providing experiential workshops conducted by men of color, the conference can empower students, address behavior issues, tackle chronic absenteeism, and offer valuable networking and mentorship opportunities. Ultimately, such an event has the potential to inspire and uplift an entire generation of young minorities, paving the way for their academic success and future achievements.





# EVENT SCHEDULE

## **9AM: STUDENTS ARRIVE ON CAMPUS**

Students will meet and be registered into the conference.  
Breakfast will be served (Grand Ballroom and Foyer)

## **9:30AM: OPENING STATEMENTS**

EEA Chairperson opening remarks with SCSU Representative

## **10:00AM: POLICY FOR CHANGE**

Students Meet with Legislators

## **11:00AM: BREAK**

## **11:15PM: CHOP IT UP**

Mental Health Presentation

## **12:00PM: LUNCH**

Grand Ballroom and Foyer

## **12:45PM: MEDIA LITERACY & 10 TYPES OF DREAMS**

Grand Ballroom & Theatre

## **2:00PM: BREAK**

## **2:15PM: MEDIA LITERACY & 10 TYPES OF DREAMS**

Grand Ballroom & Theatre

## **3:30PM: KEY NOTE SPEAKER**

## **4:15PM: COLLEGE TOUR**

Campus tour

## **5:30PM: DEPARTURE**

# **BENEFITS FOR THE STUDENTS**

1. **Mental Health Awareness**: The conference will help raise awareness about mental health issues that at-risk youth males may face, such as depression, anxiety, and trauma. By providing information, resources, and support, the conference can help reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and encourage youth to seek help when needed.
2. **Social Media Education**: In today's digital age, social media plays a significant role in the lives of young people. By addressing topics such as online safety, cyberbullying, and the impact of social media on mental health, the conference can help youth navigate the digital world more effectively and make informed decisions about their online behavior.
3. **Goal Planning and Personal Development**: Empowering at-risk youth males to set goals, make plans, and work towards their aspirations is crucial for their personal development and future success. The conference can provide workshops, tools, and guidance on goal setting, time management, and skills development to help youth build a positive vision for their future.
4. **Self-Advocacy and Empowerment**: Giving at-risk youth males a platform to advocate for themselves to legislators can be a powerful way to amplify their voices and address systemic issues that affect their well-being. By sharing their experiences, challenges, and needs with policymakers, youth can influence decision-making, raise awareness about important issues, and drive positive change in their communities.
5. **Community Support and Networking**: The conference can serve as a valuable opportunity for at-risk youth males to connect with peers, mentors, and community organizations that can provide support, guidance, and resources. Building a supportive network can help youth feel less isolated, more empowered, and better equipped to overcome challenges they may face.
6. **Skill Building and Empowerment**: Workshops and activities focused on leadership, communication, advocacy, and other skills can help at-risk youth males develop confidence, resilience, and a sense of agency. These skills are essential for navigating challenges, pursuing opportunities, and becoming active participants in their own lives and communities.

# WE APPRECIATE YOU

As the founder of Equity Enrichment Alliance, I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation of time and resources towards the **Generationally Enhancing Males Conference**. Your advocacy and support for at-risk youth males in Connecticut have made a profound impact on our shared mission to empower and uplift young men in our community.

Your commitment to serving as a champion for at-risk youth males in Connecticut is truly commendable. Your dedication, expertise, and passion will help create a platform for young men to access essential resources, build vital skills, and advocate for themselves in a nurturing and supportive environment.

As Barbara Dalio, the founder of Dalio Education, eloquently stated, "Education is the great equalizer." Your contributions to the conference and your advocacy for at-risk youth males are helping to level the playing field, provide opportunities, and create a brighter future for young men facing challenges in our community.

Your unwavering support and dedication to advocating for at-risk youth males in Connecticut are deeply appreciated. Your generosity and commitment to making a difference in the lives of young men exemplify the spirit of compassion and service that drives positive change and empowers individuals to reach their full potential.

On behalf of the conference organizers and the at-risk youth males whose lives you have touched, I want to express my sincerest thanks for your impactful contributions. Your advocacy, generosity, and support are making a lasting difference in our community, and we are grateful for your partnership in this important work.

Thank you once again for your invaluable support and dedication to advocating for at-risk youth males in Connecticut. Your commitment to making a difference is truly inspiring, and I look forward to continuing our important work together to uplift and empower young men in our community.

With gratitude and warm regards,

Sean

## CONTACT

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