

ESSA Leadership Learning Community

MEDIA INVITE

VIRTUAL EVENT DATE: July 20, 2021

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Statewide Educators Call on PA's 500 School Districts to Use American Rescue Plan Funds to Increase Racial Diversity Among Teachers

Group points to studies showing that having culturally relevant educators improves scholastic outcomes for all demographic groups

What:	<p>As school districts statewide prepare to return to the classroom, they are making decisions on how to best use the new federal funding from the American Rescue Plan. The ESSA Leadership Learning Community (ELLC), representing prominent educators and advocates across the state, is holding a news conference on July 20, 2021, to advocate for some of those dollars to be dedicated toward programs that have been shown to increase racial diversity among teachers. The percentage of teachers of color in Pennsylvania has been below 6% for almost a decade while the percentage of students of color has increased from approximately 30% to 36%. Having culturally relevant educators has been shown to improve scholastic outcomes for all demographic groups. Teacher diversity also helps alleviate teacher shortages in high-need areas. Speakers at the news conference will address programs, such as dual enrollment partnerships with universities, that are working to increase racial diversity and could be expanded through increased use of ARP funding.</p> <p>Other partners on this project include the Pennsylvania Educator Diversity Consortium and Cheyney University. ELLC, which was derived from Council of Chief State School Officers, the Council of Great City Schools, and the National Urban League is funded by the Wallace Foundation.</p>
Who:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Esther Bush: President and CEO, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh• Tanya Garcia, Ph.D: Deputy Secretary of Higher Education• Sharif El-Mekki: CEO, Center for Black Educator Development• Larisa Shambaugh, Chief Talent Officer, School District of Philadelphia• Anthony Hamlet, Ed.D.: Superintendent, Pittsburgh Public Schools• Aaron A. Walton: President, Cheyney University• Valerie Kinloch, Ph.D.: Renee and Richard Goldman Dean, University of Pittsburgh• Gwen Price, Ph.D.: President, PA Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators
When:	Tuesday, July 20, 2021 11:00 a.m.
Where:	This is a virtual news conference. Media questions will be welcomed following initial remarks. Please join at: https://cheyney.zoom.us/j/93386475704