



Winter news & updates

February 27, 2024 | Issue 27



Outcomes Team Meetings

Whole Child Initiative – March 27, 2024
PECAN Public Session – April 18, 2024

Convener Work Session

Convener Meeting – April 12, 2024

**Antiracist Education Conference:
Beyond the Curriculum: Building
Cultural Connections by Partnering with
Families**



Message from the Executive Director

We desire to bequest two things to our children — the first one is roots; the other one is wings. ~Sudanese Proverb

Dear Friends,

As the dad of a soon to be two-year-old, my work to change systems and improve outcomes for children is an ever-present endeavor. While I have always had a passion for justice and belief in the need for the pursuit of equity for all children, now that I am a parent, these passions and pursuits have evolved to become more personal and closer to my heart.

Currently, my child is at that exhilarating stage of life where every day she learns a new word, phrase or skill and discovers something new about herself and her environment. I am in awe of how quickly she absorbs all that is around her, and I try to view the world through her eyes. I also



Free registration at: tinyurl.com/acpcon2024

Breakout Session Spotlight: Beyond the Curriculum: Building Cultural Connections by Partnering with Families

ROC the Future Alliance Parent/Family Partners (PFPs), Kearstin Brown-Warren and Tina Carney, will facilitate a session for teachers on the importance of building partnerships with families. Representing all PFPs, as well as the greater Alliance, we believe that parents are the experts on their children. This session will:

- Explore how partnering with parents, families and youth will break down the barriers to learning that are deeply-rooted in institutionalized racism.
- Use components of the World Cafe and empathy interview models to share impactful family-school connection approaches that are culturally responsive and antiracist.
- Center the lived experiences of parents, families and youth.

VIRTUAL 2024 ANTIRACIST EDUCATION CONFERENCE SATURDAY | 3.2.24

Register Now

wonder if the world is ready for her and if she is ready for the world.

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Community Spotlight: The Reading Roc



This month, we are shining a light on Devon Reynolds and the Sweet Ida Mae Pantry! In collaboration with the Lincoln Branch Library, the Reading Roc, held during February Recess, featured special guest readers and storytelling to foster a love of reading amongst children.

Grade level reading and early school success is a predictor of achievement in the later years and high school graduation. We encourage adults and older siblings to read with children nightly.

For more on the importance of reading, check out the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, a national network of local and regional coalitions that promote grade-level reading and early school success for children in economically challenged families.

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Network News



Welcome Chakeva Miller

Chakeva Miller is the Whole Child Initiative Family and Community Engagement Specialist. She comes to us from URM Strong Recovery as an Addiction Therapist. Her role involved supporting individuals in their journey toward recovery from substance use disorders. She provided guidance, education, and therapeutic interventions to empower clients to make positive changes and regain control over their lives.

Chakeva is most passionate about transforming systems to improve education outcomes because she believes treating the “whole child” is essential to academic success.

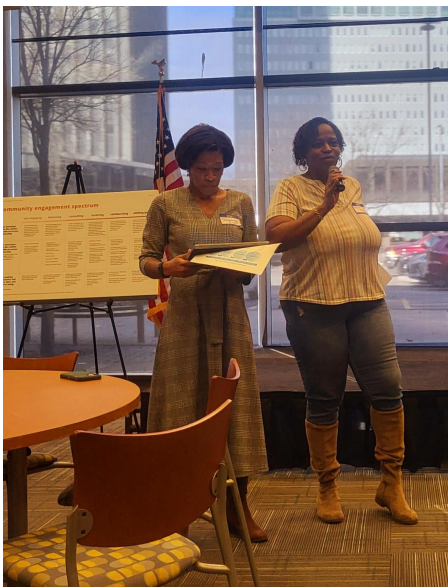


Dads Unite at RTFA's First-Ever Parent Café for Fathers

Multiple research studies have proven that children with fathers actively involved in their lives have a significant advantage over those who do not. They perform better in school, they have more advanced language skills, and they regulate their emotions better than children who have little or no contact with their fathers.

With this in mind, ROC the Future Alliance hosted its first-ever Parent Café for dads only on February 5th. The gathering was our eleventh Parent Café since the Whole Child Initiative [launched the program](#) last summer, and the first of 2024.

[Read More](#)



ROC the Future Alliance High School Graduation Outcomes Team

The High School Graduation Outcomes Team (HSGOT) is making great strides. In January 2024, the team utilized an Empathy Interview model to gather qualitative data from high school education service providers regarding their thoughts, ideas, and current efforts in the area of high school success.

This also served as an opportunity to share some of the work that HSGOT has undertaken in 2023 in order to get first impressions, feedback, and suggestions from experts in the field. In the coming months, we will work in conjunction with these school principals and building leaders to go into Rochester-area high schools

to speak directly with youth and families. Using the nationally recognized Be Strong World Café model, we will gather similar data from youth and families on the topic of high school success, including their lived experiences and what it is they need to be successful.

In the coming months, be on the lookout for information for our High School Community Convening where we will identify data-informed strategies to improve high school outcomes.



Changing Mental Models through C.O.R.E. COMPLETE THE SYSTEMS CHANGE FORM

This year, ROC the Future Alliance is collecting stories from our partners to capture the way your work is making shifts in the areas of **policy, practices, resources, and/or power structures** to benefit Rochester youth and families.

We will utilize this form throughout the year to advance our Common Agenda, populate the newsletter, and prepare for the 2025 Report Card release. The benefits of completing this form include growing publicity for your work by sharing it with a larger audience, building alignment by ensuring collective community knowledge and mutually reinforcing one and other's work by identifying areas for collaboration and breaking down silos.

Our collective work will help Rochester achieve the StriveTogether Systems Change designation.

[Complete now](#)

JOY, COMMUNITY, RESISTANCE, SUSTAINABILITY

Keynote Speakers:
Dr. Clint Smith, Dr. Bettina Love, & Dr. Shaun Nelms

2024 3rd Annual Virtual Antiracist Education Conference
Saturday March 2nd, 2024
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
FREE Registration at tinyurl.com/acpcon2024

2024 Antiracist Education Conference

Join the 2024 Greater Rochester Antiracist Education Virtual Conference: Joy, Community, Resistance & Sustainability on Saturday, March 2nd at 9am

The conference goal is to bring together local educators, administrators, activists, students and parents to learn from each other as we create a more just and equitable community.

The conference will feature three keynote presentations from Dr. Bettina Love and Dr. Shaun Nelms and Dr. Clint Smith, and breakout sessions led by local youth, educators and activists. We are pleased to announce that ROC the Future Alliance Parent/Family Partners (PFPs), Kearstin Brown-Warren and Tina Carney, will facilitate a session for teachers on the importance of building partnerships with families.

This conference is FREE. It is brought to you by: The Antiracist Curriculum Project, SUNY Brockport School of Education, SUNY Geneseo Ella Cline Shear School of Education, Nazareth College School of Education, St. John Fisher Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. School of Education, University of Rochester Warner School of Education.

Register Now

National Parent Leadership Month

TODAY I AM

grateful,

pleased,

touched,

appreciative,

beholden...

...or in short:

thankful for you as a
parent leader

In addition to February being Black History Month, it is also National Parent Leadership Month. National Parent Leadership Month was initiated by Parents Anonymous® as an opportunity to show appreciation for parents who work to improve the lives of their families, neighbors, and communities. We are huge advocates of Parent/Family Partner Power. Parents do this work by lending their voice to local, state, and national initiatives and by partnering with the staff of programs in which they participate.

You can acknowledge a parent in your network by downloading resources here:

Free Resources

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