Welcome to the 13th Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Conference in the College of Education! We are thrilled that you are here with us today as we bring alive our conference theme: “Sustaining Racial Social Justice Action in Education and Society.”

Building on our conference theme last year, which explored courageous conversations, this year, we have the opportunity to examine how to bring about social change in a sustainable manner. What do we do when we get tired in racial and social justice work? How do we stay motivated, inspired, and connected to fellow change agents, while engaging a diversity of voices, perspectives, and strategies? How can we transform school and societal systems while taking care of ourselves, our families, and our communities?

These are questions of sustainability, self-care, and community-building that we will engage with in today’s conference. In her keynote address, Angie Thomas, author of The Hate U Give, will draw from the content of her book exploring racial justice and other issues of privilege and oppression. She will challenge us to make connections between our political and personal selves. Following Angie’s keynote, there will be five break-out sessions organized as real-time dialogues to engage audience members in conversations about some of the most pressing issues of our times—from self-care, activism, and social justice work in schools to navigating our own privilege and oppression identities and engaging in research that generates social change. Following these dialogue sessions, Angie returns for a closing keynote panel dialogue with Bettina Love and LaKeisha Gantt, facilitated by Sherri Williams, to support us in identifying our next steps in challenging oppression and strengthening the communities in which we live and work.

In closing, we offer many thanks to the 2018 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Conference Committee members for their important work and vision for this conference. We are also grateful for your presence and commitment to your own professional and personal growth in diversity, equity, and inclusion, which are key building blocks for what Martin Luther King, Jr. called the “beloved community.”

In the spirit of community,

Anneliese and Denise
AGENDA

8-8:45 a.m.  Registration and coffee  Pecan Tree Galleria

8:45-10 a.m.  Welcome and Blessing of the Land  Masters Hall
Cori Bazemore-James, doctoral student, Department of Counseling and Human Development Services
Anneliese Singh, associate dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion, College of Education
Denise Spangler, interim dean, College of Education

Introduction of Angie Thomas
Marques Dexter, doctoral student, Department of Kinesiology

Keynote Speaker – Angie Thomas, author
The Hate You Give: Finding Your Activism and Turning the Political into the Personal

Q&A with Angie

10-10:15 a.m.  Refreshment break  Pecan Tree Galleria

10:15-11:15 a.m.  Breakout sessions  Second Floor Meeting Rooms

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  Kitchen Table Conversations  Masters Hall
In Conversation about Sustaining Racial and Social Justice Action in Education and Society
Angie Thomas, Bettina Love, and LaKeisha Gantt
Facilitator: Sherri Williams

1-2 p.m.  Book signing with Angie Thomas  Pecan Tree Galleria
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Angie Thomas is the author of the New York Times No.1 bestseller *The Hate U Give*. Thomas’ *The Hate U Give* has been called “a stunning, brilliant, gut-wrenching novel that will be remembered as a classic of our time” (The New York Times) and has already been adapted as a major feature film. In talks, Thomas gives context and background to the culture, politics, and movement behind the book. Born, raised, and still residing in Jackson, Mississippi—and a former teen rapper—she holds a BFA in Creative Writing from Belhaven University and an unofficial degree in hip hop. She is an inaugural winner of the 2015 Walter Dean Myers Grant awarded by We Need Diverse Books.

KEYNOTE TOPIC

*The Hate You Give: Finding Your Activism and Turning the Political into the Personal*

In this talk, Thomas traces the development of her captivating debut, *The Hate U Give* — and in so doing, speaks to the heart of race, activism, and social change in America today. She explains why young black people need to see themselves in fiction—especially as they are forced to see themselves, traumatically and routinely, as the victims of discrimination, poverty, and police brutality. She demonstrates why we need more compelling depictions of black girls in art, often lost in discussions of black youth in general. Thomas argues for writing that can turn the merely political into the deeply personal: a way to inspire action and speaking truth to power. And she makes audiences see, and feel, why empathy is more powerful than sympathy — and when done right, that fiction can help us find our voice, or lend it to others. Ultimately, Thomas is the young, outspoken writer ready to hit three truths home: that life fuels art, art mirrors life, and books can change lives.

Thank you to our Conference partners:

College of Education, Dean’s Office
College of Education Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
College of Education Office of Information Technology
College of Education Office of Research and Graduate Education

College of Education Department of Career and Information Studies
College of Education Department of Educational Theory and Practice
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
College of Public Health
UGA Office of Institutional Diversity
Be Roses that Grow in the Concrete: Demystifying Activist Practices

Room A
Dialogue Facilitators: Briana Bivens, Mariah Parker, Melanie Peiper, and Sherri Williams

“Activism” can be a mysterious, intimidating concept that elicits images of protests and rallies. While public demonstrations are critical to justice work, real change also requires behind-the-scenes work, small acts of kindness, and numerous talent contributions. In this discussion, panelists will address the multi-tiered nature of activism and emphasize its many forms in order to craft a new, more complex image of “activism” that incorporates many levels of involvement and contribution.

Who or What Defines ‘Normal’ to You?: Navigating Intersections of Privilege and Oppression

Room B
Dialogue Facilitators: Marques Dexter, Ashley Faris, and Brittany Williams

Presenters will engage in an intentional dialogue about the ways they navigate their intersectional identities of privilege and oppression to critically participate in social justice activism while using their privileged identity for good. Each presenter will share their awareness of privilege identity and how they use this privilege identity to promote opportunities for conscious work and social activism.

There are Just Some Places Where It’s Not Enough to be Me: Healing and Affirming Yourself through Social Justice Work

Room J
Dialogue Facilitators: Joy Harden Bradford and Brean’a Parker, Shin Law

Not only is it critical to engage in self-care while doing good and necessary justice work, but it is also important to acknowledge the ways in which this work can serve as a source of healing and community-building. This discussion will focus on the ways in which these presenters find sustenance, affirmation, and restoration in their social justice work. Presenters will share narratives of their praxis that inform transformation, validation, and healing experiences.

That’s the Hate They’re Giving Us, Baby, a System Designed against Us: Imagining Social Justice in Schools

Room Q
Dialogue Facilitators: Kevin Burke, Morgan Faison, Stephanie Toliver, and Isa Heesacker-Romero

In an educational climate shaped by test-based accountability and demands for a narrowly-defined idea of “educational excellence,” the public education system continues to fail a lot of young people. In this conversation, we will look at how we might reimagine education in a way that focuses on social justice, celebrates difference, and rewards critical inquiry. From discipline systems that disproportionately punish Black boys to curricular content that is unrepresentative of the diverse experiences of all students, the education system is not working for a huge portion of students. Through pedagogical, policy, and spatial reorganizations, we might begin to conceptualize what a justice-informed school looks like.

The Key is to Never Stop Doing Right: Research that Gives Back

Room R
Dialogue Facilitators: ¡BIEN!team – Edward Delgado-Romero, Elizabeth Cardenas Bautista, Ruben Atilano, Jhokania De Los Santos, Marlinee Monroig, Brooke Rappaport, Martiza Duran, and Marjory Vasquez

There is an unquestionable divide between the world of academia and the communities where real people live, work, struggle, and celebrate. This doesn’t have to be the case, though, as we recognize the power of ideas and dialogue to create material change in the world. In this conversation, panelists discuss how students can embark on research journeys such that research becomes not some tool for objectifying and analyzing, but rather a tool for change. Panelists will talk producing social justice research and sharing it an accessible, understandable way to help bridge this divide.

In Conversation with Angie Thomas

Room Y/Z (closed session, invite only)
Facilitator: Cynthia Dillard
In liberation movements around the globe, the kitchen table has long been a site of self-reflection, strategizing activist practices, and possibility talk about social change. Drawing on black feminist and womanist traditions, panelists talk with Angie about sustaining racial and social justice action in schools and society.

In Conversation about Sustaining Racial and Social Justice Action in Education and Society
Facilitator: Sherri Williams

Angie Thomas is the author of the New York Times No. 1 bestseller *The Hate U Give*. Thomas’ *The Hate U Give* has been called “a stunning, brilliant, gut-wrenching novel that will be remembered as a classic of our time” (The New York Times) and has already been adapted as a major feature film. In talks, Thomas gives context and background to the culture, politics, and movement behind the book. Born, raised, and still residing in Jackson, Mississippi—and a former teen rapper—she holds a BFA in creative writing from Belhaven University and an unofficial degree in hip hop. She is an inaugural winner of the 2015 Walter Dean Myers Grant awarded by We Need Diverse Books.

Bettina L. Love is an award-winning author and associate professor of educational theory and practice at the University of Georgia. Her research focuses on the ways in which urban youth negotiate hip hop music and culture to form social, cultural, and political identities to create new and sustaining ways of thinking about urban education and intersectional social justice. Her research also focuses on how teachers and schools working with parents and communities can build communal, civically engaged, anti-racist, anti-homophobic, and anti-sexist educational, equitable classrooms. In 2016, Love was named the Nasir Jones Hiphop Fellow at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University for her work in the field. She is also the creator of the hip hop civics curriculum, GET FREE. In April of 2017, Love participated in a one-on-one public lecture with bell hooks focused on the liberatory education practices of black and brown children.

LaKeisha Gantt is a licensed psychologist and licensed professional counselor who received her master’s degree in counseling and doctoral degree in counseling psychology from the University of Georgia. A native of Athens, Georgia, Gantt’s practice and research interests lie at the intersection of education, psychology, and multiculturalism. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, watching television, and serving people in a variety of capacities.

Sherri Williams is an assistant professor in race, media, and communication at American University. Williams has a particular interest in how black people’s use of social media is changing social justice and the entertainment industry, especially television. She is also interested in and studies how marginalized people, especially black women, are represented in the media and how those images are connected to oppression. National media outlets, including CNN, USA Today, Smithsonian Magazine, Vice, and the Atlanta Journal Constitution have interviewed Williams for her social media expertise. Williams’ commitment to equitable representations helped earn her a spot on NBC BLK’S Fierce Black Feminists You Should Know list. Williams was a newspaper journalist for a decade before she entered academia. She still contributes to national outlets including The Washington Post, NBC, Self magazine, ELLE.com, Essence, and Ebony magazine. Williams writes about social justice, media representations, and health disparities including mental health. She was the executive editor of the #SquadCare journalism project and is the co-founder and co-director of the black on campus journalism program.
HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

MULTICULTURAL/DIVERSITY CONFERENCES

In 1994, the College of Education began sponsoring an annual multicultural education conference for college faculty, staff, and students to unite people involved or interested in activities and research related to enhancing and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. The conference agenda typically included a diversity leader as the keynote speaker, concurrent sessions, and research poster displays to provide multiple forums for sharing and learning together.

Professional development for faculty, staff, and students is a valued hallmark of the College of Education’s multicultural and diversity efforts. The annual conference added significantly to professional development in the area of diversity and multicultural education. In addition, the conference provided a forum for focusing on the educational needs of students. For example, the 1996, 1997, and 1999 annual multicultural education conferences were devoted to curriculum development. The conference also enabled the College to maintain a leadership role in multicultural initiatives at UGA and within the larger Athens community.

After a hiatus of more than a decade, the annual conference was restored in the fall of 2013. A hallmark of the recent diversity conferences was an expansion of the attendees to include the UGA campus as well as Athens community members. Historically, faculty and staff have organized the diversity conferences. The conference took another hiatus in 2016 as the new Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion was being developed. During this time, a conference planning committee of staff, students, and faculty began working on expanding the conference so that all individuals were more intentionally included as both presenters and attendees. We are excited to continue the tradition this year as we celebrate the 13th conference!

Past Keynote Presentations and Speakers

1994  The College of Education and Multicultural Education, Carl Grant
1995  Working Through the Challenges, Carlos Cortes and Beverly Guy-Sheftal
1996  Journeying Toward a Multicultural Curriculum, Asa Hilliard, Don Locke, and Ron B. Miller
1997  Multicultural Education From the Inside Out,
1998  Connections: Renewing Our Commitment, Kati Haycock and Pam Martin
1999  Implementing Our Commitment, Carl Grant
2000  Confronting Challenges: Bridges & Barriers, Tracy Robinson
2013  Living our Commitments, Everyday, Together, Vanessa Siddle-Walker
2014  Promoting Diversity, Patricia Edwards
2015  Diversity in Your Backyard, Maurice Daniels
2017  Understanding and Facilitating Difficult Dialogues, Derald Wing Sue

Thank you to our Conference committee:
Briana Bivens, Brean’a Parker, Cynthia Dillard, Tisha Lewis Ellison, Bernadette Heckman, Janette Hill, Melanie Peiper, Anneliese Singh, Stephanie Toliver, Marques Dexter

The conference committee would like to dedicate their work on this conference to the many past, current, and future College of Education students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members who have worked tirelessly to bring attention to DEI issues and build stronger and more just communities. We also dedicate this conference to our ancestors and those who have engaged in human and civil rights movements that paved the way so that we can do justice work.