

POWER UP COLORADO

APRIL 29 - 30, 2024

Presented by:



#POWERUPCO

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POWER UP COLORADO

Power Up is a strategic outreach effort in multiple cities across the U.S. created to engage with the Black community, highlight research and best practices, share federal resources, and work with local school districts to empower students, educators, families, administrators, and staff. The primary goal is to advance educational and economic opportunity for Black Americans.

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Manual High School
1700 E 28th Ave, Denver, CO 80205



Community College of Aurora
16000 E. CentreTech Pkwy, Aurora, CO 80011

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AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Mon. Apr. 29

10:00 – 1:00

Pep Rally*

Robotics Showcase*

College and Career Prep Panel and Fair*

**For Denver Public School Students Only*

5:30 – 7:00

Career Fair

6:00 – 7:30

Black Educator Roundtable

Faith and Community Leader Roundtable

Family Engagement Roundtable

Tues. Apr. 30

9:00 – 5:00

General Sessions and Workshops

Topics include:

Better FAFSA: Federal Student Aid

Black Male Engagement

Black Student Achievement

Black Women in STEM

Business and Economic Development

Classrooms to Careers

Courageous Leaders

Early Learning

Mental Health

Space Innovation

Teacher Recruitment and Retention

Unlocking Career Success

and more...

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**White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity,
Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans
and
Discovery Education**

AGENDA

MON. APR. 29

Location: Manual High School, 1700 E 28th Ave, Denver, CO 80205

10:00 – 10:30

Youth Engagement Session*

****Denver Public School (DPS) Students Only***

Land Acknowledgement and Norms

Dr. Boris Costa Guerra, Director of Activities, DPS

Welcome & Remarks

Alexis K. Holmes, Executive Director, White House Black Initiative

Chris DeRemer, Principal, Manual High School

Dr. Alex Marrero, Superintendent, Denver Public Schools

Overview of Event

Salome Daniel, Confidential Assistant, White House Black Initiative

Student Performances

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Early College Drumline

Manual High School Cheerleaders

Introduction of Keynote

Jade Thompson, Student Body President, Manual High School

Keynote

Michael Atkins, Director, Black Student Success, DPS

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Youth Engagement Session*

****Denver Public School (DPS) Students Only***

10:40 – 11:10 Overview of Robotics Teams Showcase

**Troi Dixon, Confidential Assistant, Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Education**

FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Teams

**Coronado High School FRC Team 2996: Cougars Gone Wired
DSST Green Valley Ranch High School FRC Team 7737: RaptorBotics
DSST Stapleton High School FRC Team 2240: Brute Force
FRC 4293: Komodo**

**Manual High School Robotics Club: Edison Robotics
STEM School Highlands Ranch FRC Team 4418: Team Impulse**

11:15 – 11:45 College and Career Readiness Panel

**Moderator: Grace Mukupa, Policy Director, Complete College America
*Speakers:***

**Samantha Haviland, Executive Director of Career and College Success, DPS
Andrew Magaña, Director of Recruitment, Colorado State University
Wilvena McDowell, Manager, MSI Member Recruitment, Common App
Michelle Pacheco, Dean of Academic Success, Concurrent Enrollment,
Community College of Aurora
Rev. Dr. Jose Silva, Vice President of Equity Initiatives, Generation Schools
Network**

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Youth Engagement Session*

****Denver Public School (DPS) Students Only***

11:45 - 12:15 Student Lunch and Networking

12:20 - 12:25 Overview of Student Passport for Fair
**Ronique Hicks, Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships,
Discovery Education**

12:30 - 12:55 The World Awaits You
College and Career Fair for High School Students

12:55 - 1:00 Closing Remarks
**Chase Moore, Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary, U.S.
Department of Education**

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**Location: Community College of Aurora – CentreTech Campus,
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5:30 – 7:30 Career Fair
Rotunda

6:00 – 7:30 Faith and Community Leader Roundtable
Room 207 A&B

This session will bring together faith and community leaders to discuss ways they are serving Black communities, from people of faith, to veterans, to students, and more -- breaking down barriers to access to resources and building resilient communities amid toxic political discourse. The roundtable will explore strategies for building strong, inclusive communities, promoting understanding, and addressing common challenges in Black communities at the grassroots.

Moderator: Kalila Hines Winters, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, White House Initiatives, U.S. Department of Education

Panelists:

**Heidi Casteel Ellis, President, Urban League Guild of Metropolitan Denver
Shawn L. Deadwiler, Chairman of the Board & CEO, Black Veterans
Dr. Plashan McCune, Executive Director, Higher Learning U Inc., and Chair,
African American Young Ladies Summit Program
Adrian Miller, Executive Director, Colorado Council of Churches**

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MON. APR. 29

**Location: Community College of Aurora – CentreTech Campus,
16000 E. CentreTech Pkwy, Aurora, CO 80011**

6:00 – 7:30 Black Educator Roundtable
Black Box Theater

Join us for a thought-provoking discussion as esteemed Black educators gather to share insights, experiences, and strategies in the realm of education. This roundtable aims to explore the challenges, triumphs, and unique perspectives that Black educators bring to the field.

Introduction of Moderator and Session Overview

Kamau Marshall, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, Office of Communications and Outreach, U.S. Department of Education

Moderator: Diallo Brooks, Senior Equity Fellow, U.S. Department of Education

Speakers:

Dr. Rashad Anderson, Director, Call Me MiSTER Program, Associate Professor of Teacher Education, Metropolitan State University of Denver

**Dr. Fernando Branch, Interim Principal, Robert F. Smith STEAM Academy, Denver Public Schools, Founder, Colorado Men of Color Collaborative
Jimmy Lee Day II, Colorado Teacher of the Year**

Dr. Marvin Lynn, Dean and Professor, School of Education and Human Development, University of Colorado Denver

Dr. Dedrick Sims, Chief Executive Officer, Sims-Fayola Foundation

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**Location: Community College of Aurora – CentreTech Campus,
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**6:00 – 7:30 pm *Family Engagement Roundtable
Forum***

Moderator:

**Cecily Darden, Special Assistant, Family Outreach, Office of
Communications and Outreach, US Department of Education**

Speakers:

**Niki Gill Adams, Universal Preschool Parent and Director of Diversity,
Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility, The Colorado Department of Early
Learning**

**Dr. Joyce Brooks, Co-founder and Facilitator, Black Parent Network
Iyana Hunter, Black Family Engagement Specialist, Family and
Community Engagement Department, Denver Public Schools**

John Johnson, Parent Leader, National Parents Union

Vernon Jones, Jr., Executive Leader, Faithbridge

**Cassandra McGraw, National Director, Education Strategy &
Innovation, National Center for Families Learning, CO Statewide
Family Engagement Center**

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**White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity,
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AGENDA

TUES. APR. 30

**Location: Community College of Aurora – CentreTech Campus,
16000 E. CentreTech Pkwy, Aurora, CO 80011**
Room: Forum

9:00 - 9:15 Opening Remarks

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome

Alexis K. Holmes, Executive Director

**White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and
Economic Opportunity for Black Americans**

Overview of Event

Monique Toussaint, Senior Advisor, White House Black Initiative

Introduction of President Brownlee

Clarise Williams, Student, Community College of Aurora

Remarks

Dr. Mordecai Brownlee, President, Community College of Aurora

Dr. Tony Smith, Deputy Superintendent, Denver Public Schools

**Dwight Jones, Executive Director, Office of Children’s Affairs,
City of Denver**

**Congressman Joe Neguse, Colorado’s 2nd District,
U.S. House of Representatives (Video)**

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TUES. APR. 30

**Location: Community College of Aurora - CentreTech Campus, 16000 E.
CentreTech Pkwy, Aurora, CO 80011**

**9:15 - 10:05 Policy to the People: Supporting Black Student
Achievement in Denver Public Schools**

This panel discussion will historicize persistent inequities throughout DPS that have led to opportunity gaps and share meaningful strategies to address them. This conversation will include resources from the U.S. Department of Education, race-conscious and equity driven approaches, and community voice to address barriers.

Introduction of Moderator and Session Overview:

Chase Moore, Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Education

Moderator:

Dr. Kortne Edogun-Ticey, Senior Advisor, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Acting Deputy Director, White House Black Initiative

Speakers:

**Michael Atkins, Director, Black Student Success, Denver Public Schools
Dr. John G. Kennedy, Senior Director, Boys and Girls Club of Denver
Dr. Rebecca McKinney, Director of Gifted and Talented Program, Colorado Department of Education**

**Dwanna Nicole, Executive Director, Restorative Justice Partnership
Victoria Scott-Hayes, Partner, Community Relations & Administration, RootED**

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TUES. APR. 30

**Location: Community College of Aurora – CentreTech Campus,
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***10:15 - 11:05 Strategies That Address College and Career Pathways for
Black Students***

*This session will discuss best practices and research to support the
educational and career advancement for Black students.*

Moderator:

**Dr. DeAndre Jones, Chief of Staff, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult
Education, U.S. Department of Education**

Speakers:

**Dr. Brian Haynes, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, University of California
Riverside**

**Bernard McCune, Executive Director of Extended Learning, Athletics, and
Activities, Denver Public Schools**

**Dr. Angie Piccione, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Higher
Education**

Pamela Roberts, Chief Operations Officer, Sachs Foundation

Dr. Luke Wood, President, Sacramento State

***11:15 - 12:00 Space Innovation and Access to All: A Perspective on Black
History in Space***

***Speaker: Amalaye Oyake, Software Engineer, Lunar Permanence,
Lunar Crew Module Flight, Blue Origin***

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**Location: Community College of Aurora – CentreTech Campus,
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12 pm - 1 pm
LUNCH

**Black owned food trucks will have meals and desserts
available for purchase.**

Seating will be available inside.

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1:05 – 1:50

Courageous Leaders Cultivating Student Voice and Agency

Discovery Education's Courageous Leaders Network is a leadership learning community dedicated to making a lasting impact by connecting education leaders to their greatest resource: each other. This community of education executive leaders partake in transformational conversations, take bold and brave actions in the face of uncertainty, and inspire others through their actions and words.

Introduction of Moderator:

Ronique Hicks, Senior Director of Partnerships, Discovery Education

Moderator:

Dr. Christina Kishimoto, Founder and CEO, Voice4Equity LLC and Professor of Clinical Education, Rossier School of Education, University of Southern California

Speakers:

Dr. Tiffany Anderson, Superintendent, Topeka Public Schools
Dr. Floyd Cobb, Associate Commissioner of Student Learning,
Colorado Department of Education
Michael Giles Jr., Superintendent, Aurora Public Schools
Dr. Alex Marrero, Superintendent, Denver Public Schools

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BREAKOUT SESSIONS

2:00 - 2:50

Breakout: Opportunities for Business and Economic Development
Room 201

Delve into the dynamic intersection of entrepreneurship and innovation in this compelling session. Discover how forward-thinking leaders leverage these powerful forces to pave the way for generational wealth creation and join us as we explore strategic approaches that can propel Black communities and families toward lasting financial prosperity

Moderator:

Nikki Porcher, Founder, Buy From A Black Woman

Speakers:

Dr. Angelic Cole, CEO, Black Chamber of Commerce

Bianka Emerson, President, Colorado Black Women for Political Action

Leslie Roberson, Black Beauty Collective

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2:00 - 2:50

Breakout: The Late Show: Modern Day Hidden Figures in STEM
Black Box Theater

This panel will foster conversation about the impact of Black women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. The goal of the panel is to encourage the audience to reframe how they think about STEM and to celebrate the women working in that field. Despite STEM being a historically difficult area for women to break into, Black women made and continue to make the impossible possible.

Moderator:

Dr. Ashley Huderson, STEM and CS Equity Advisor, Office of the Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education

Speakers:

Cynthia Chapple, Founder and CEO, Black Girls Do STEM
Kenisha Dennis, Founder and Executive, Black Girls Can
Taylor Shead, Founder and CEO, STEMULI

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2:00 - 2:50

***Breakout: The Pathway Yet Taken: Recruiting and Retaining
Teachers through Nontraditional Educational Opportunities***
Room 302

Increased teacher shortages can negatively impact the quality and diversity of the education profession, particularly in underserved, rural schools and communities. The Voorhees University Center of Excellence for Educator Preparation and Innovation (EPI) has developed and employed innovative strategies to help participating South Carolina school districts foster district-wide capacity building by preparing and supporting adult career changers in their transition to the teaching profession. The EPI Center also uses Improvement Science principles to enhance educator effectiveness and impact the instructional strategies of current teachers.

Speakers:

Dr. Damara Hightower Mitchell, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Voorhees University, Executive Director, Center of Excellence for Educator Preparation and Innovation

Dr. Tondaleya Green Jackson, Associate Professor, Voorhees University Director, Center of Excellence for Educator Preparation and Innovation

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2:00 - 2:50

Breakout: Unlocking Career Success
Room 207B

This presentation will highlight Unlocking Career Success (UCS), an initiative under Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona's "Raise the Bar: Lead the World" campaign. This interagency initiative that reimagines how our nation's high schools prepare all students to thrive in their future careers. UCS blurs the lines between high school, college, and career, providing students with accelerated and innovative opportunities to earn college credits and gain real-world career experiences. Participants will learn about the Department of Education's new Career Connected High School grant program.

Speakers:

Dr. DeAndre Jones, Chief of Staff, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education

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3:00 - 3:50

***Breakout: Black Male Engagement
Forum***

This panel discussion will gather Schott Foundation, U.S. Department of Education and Denver, Colorado based Black male educators, principals, and non-profit leaders that have demonstrated expertise in the holistic, educational, and personal development of the youth in various environments. This session will prioritize the need to address the most pressing issues that affect young Black males and emphasize the need for greater inclusion and retaining work, mentorship, and champion other resources and best practices.

**Introduction of Moderator and Session Overview:
Chase Moore, Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary,
U.S. Department of Education**

Moderator:

Diallo Brooks, Senior Equity Fellow, US Department of Education

Speakers:

Benjamin Butler, Head Football Coach & Teacher, Manual High School

Kenneth Crowley Sr., CEO, The Crowley Foundation

Daniel Sampson, Founder and CEO, Driven By Our Ambitions (DBOA) LLC

**Renard Simmons, Principal, Denver Center for 21st Century Learning
Alternative School**

Aaron Smith, Program Coordinator, Make a Chess Move (MACM)

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3:00 - 3:50 Room 207B

Breakout: Better FAFSA: Federal Student Aid

Learn about the changes and improvements for Better FAFSA. Join a Financial Student Aid expert to discuss how to access federal aid for your higher education goals.

Speaker:

Tanika Mangum, Outreach and Awareness Specialist, Federal Student Aid,
U.S. Department of Education

3:00 - 3:50 Room 201

Breakout: Black Voices: Early Childhood Education

During this session, attendees will hear about local and national efforts to support equitable access to early childhood education. Panelists will highlight the importance of early learning and long-term student success.

Moderator:

Monique Toussaint, Senior Advisor, White House Black Initiative

Speakers:

Dr. Rosemarie Allen, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Development,
Metropolitan State University of Denver, President and Chief Executive
Officer, Institute for Racial Equity and Excellence

Dr. Lisa Roy, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Early Childhood
Jalen Taylor, Affiliate President, Colorado Black Child Development Institute

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3:00 - 3:50

***Breakout: Classroom to Careers: Connecting Students to STEM
Pathways***
Room 302

During this session leaders from business and education will speak about the importance of driving equitable access to STEM education to career pathways for underrepresented communities. This dynamic conversation will highlight both public and private perspectives, highlight strategies and initiative aimed at breaking down barriers and generating greater representation in STEM.

Moderator:

Jackie Smalls, Vice President, Social Impact Coalitions, Discovery Education

Speakers:

Matthew Gibbs, Senior Analyst, Stakeholder Relations, The AES Corporation
**Jonathan (Jon) Gooda, Managing Director of Station Operations, United
Airlines**

**Kathleen Kosmoki, Senior Manager, American Society of Mechanical
Engineers (ASME)**

Dr. Simone Wright, Chief Academic Officer, Denver Public Schools

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4:00 - 4:50 Room: Forum

Black Mental Health Matters - From Cradle to Career

In this 50-minute panel discussion, we will delve into the critical importance of mental health, shedding light on the resources available at both local and national levels. We will also discuss strategies for fostering resilience and promoting wellness at every stage. Our panel of experts will share insights, discuss best practices, and answer questions about mental health support and services.

Moderator:

Dr. Kortne Edogun-Ticey, Senior Advisor, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Acting Deputy Director, White House Black Initiative

Speakers:

Dr. Floyd Cobb, Associate Commissioner of Student Learning, Colorado Department of Education

Jasmine Crane, LPC, Director of Health and Well Being, Institute for Racial Equity and Excellence

**Dr. Shakari Hood, Executive Director, Colorado Black Health Collaborative
Sonya Palafox, School Counselor, Denver Public Schools**

Dr. Anthony P. Young, President, Denver-Rocky Mountain Association of Black Psychologists

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Closing Remarks

**Alexis K. Holmes, Executive Director, White House Initiative
on Advancing Educational Equity,
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THANK YOU COLORADO

Power Up Colorado was planned in collaboration with Denver Public Schools (DPS), Manual High School, Colorado Department of Education, and Community College of Aurora (CCA)- CentreTech Campus.

We would especially like to thank the following individuals:

Dr. Boris Costa Guerra, Director of Activities, DPS

Chris DeRemer, Principal, Manual High School

Nikiyah (Niki) W. Gill Adams, M. Ed, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility, Colorado Department of Early Childhood

Cameron Johnston, Assistant to the President, CCA

Alicia Huffman, Facilities, Fleet, and Auxiliary Services Coordinator, Facilities Services, CCA

Blair T. Lee, MPA, Executive Director, Strategic Communications and Alumni Engagement, CCA

Angela Marquez, Ph.D., Vice President of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and Chief of Staff, Community College of Aurora

Bernard McCune, Executive Director of Athletics, Activities & Extended Academic Learning, DPS

Eduardo Peralta, Director of Information Technology, CCA

Lisa Roy, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Early Childhood

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