



YWCA Great Pittsburgh Center for Race and Gender Equity

ACTION CONVERSATIONS ON RACE

September 15, 2021

Censoring American History

Our September conversation focused on how censorship about race and racism functions in education, including recent efforts to ban critical race theory both locally and nationally.

Missed September's Action Conversation?

You can find recordings of all our previous Action Conversations at youtube.com/ywcapgh

Panelists

T. Elon Dancy, PhD

Executive Director, Center for Urban Education, University of Pittsburgh

Gretchen Givens Generett, PhD

Dean & Professor, School of Education, Duquesne University

Support groups that promote historical accuracy, racial justice, and equality in our schools:

- [Black Women for a Better Education](#) is a coalition of Black women Pittsburgh Public School parents, alumni, former employees, retirees, and concerned community members committed to ensuring that all Black children in this region receive the high-quality education they deserve. Formed in response to the district's handling of COVID-19, their goal is to dismantle systems that perpetuate racism and oppression in and around PPS.

BWBE won a [YWCA Greater Pittsburgh 2021 Equity Award](#) as an ally, advocate, and champion contributing to the long-term engagement and emotional attachment needed to bring equity to Pittsburgh. Join us for the award ceremony on Friday, November 5, 2021, from 12-1:30 to celebrate their achievements. Tickets available [here](#).

- Promoting local involvement, Dr. Dancy directed us to Pitt's [Center for Urban Education](#), and Dr. Generett cited Duquesne's [Center for Educational Leadership and Social Justice](#).
- Mentioned in the chat, [Facing History and Ourselves](#) challenges teachers and their students to stand up to bigotry and hate. [Abolitionist Teaching Network](#) was also mentioned in the chat as a resource in the struggle for educational liberation.

Educate yourself about censorship and systemic racial inequality:

- Clint Smith's very brief TED Talk "[The Danger of Silence](#)" issues a powerful reminder about the consequences of censorship. He calls us to action: "read critically, write consciously, speak clearly, tell your truth."
- YWCA Boston is offering a free opportunity on Tuesday, October 26 from 9:00-10:30 AM to [learn more about critical race theory](#) from one of its founders and most important thought leaders, Patricia J. Williams. Her talk will focus on how CRT can support organizational diversity, equity, and inclusion. Register for the virtual event [here](#).
- Mentioned in the chat, "[Lucky Zip Codes](#)" is a popular TED Talk that uses critical race theory to discuss housing and systemic racism, which impacts educational equity.

Advocate for policies that eliminate racism and empower women:

- [The African American Policy Forum \(AAPF\)](#) is leading a national campaign to teach the truth about racism. Use their interactive map to track legislation aimed at educational censorship.
- [Sign on to this letter](#) developed collectively by members of Black Women for a Better Education and other Pittsburgh Public School families and stakeholders. The letter addresses hiring priorities for the new superintendent that include an understanding of diversity, social inequities, and achievement gaps.
- [HB 1532](#) was introduced in June 2021 by several Pennsylvania state lawmakers attempting to ban critical race theory in school districts across the state. [Read a statement](#) signed by notable Pennsylvanians about why they oppose HB 1532 and other national, statewide, and local assaults on anti-racism and anti-sexism educational efforts.
- [Sign up for the YWCA Action Center](#). For over 160 years, YWCA is on a mission to eliminate racism and empower women. We carry on this tradition of social action and advocacy, and you are a crucial part of this work! Now, more than ever, our collective voices are needed to advocate for policies that bring us closer towards meeting this mission.

**Please join us from 12-1 on Wednesday, October 20
for a panel discussion of [Male Allies and White Accomplices!](#)**

Register for YWCA Action Conversations on Race at ywcapgh.org/conversations/

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
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