

THE FREEDOM SCHOOL PROJECT PRESENTS a ZOOM PANEL DISCUSSION:

CONTEMPORARY FREEDOM SCHOOLING



Rev. Dr. Gregory James Edwards
Founder and Senior Pastor
Resurrected Life Community
Church

Dr. Gregory James Edwards is the Director of POWER-Lehigh Valley, the area's largest multi-faith, multi-racial community organizing initiative. He is the Board Chair for Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley, and a board member for the Community First Fund in Central Pennsylvania. His contextual approach to urban ministry--based upon an understanding of the intersectionality of race, spiritual growth, educational empowerment, economic self-sufficiency, community development and public policy--led to the creation of the James Lawson Freedom School in Allentown.



Ronda Taylor Bullock, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Working to
Extend Anti-Racist Education
(WE ARE)

Dr. Ronda Taylor Bullock is the co-founder and executive director of Working to Extend Anti-Racist Education (WE ARE). She earned her doctorate at UNC-Chapel Hill in Policy, Leadership, and School Improvement. As a non-profit, we are provides anti-racism training for children, parents and educators. WE ARE uses a three-pronged approach to dismantle systemic racism in education and beyond. Dr. Taylor Bullock's research interests include critical race theory, whiteness studies, white children's racial identity construction, and anti-racism. Before entering her doctoral program, she taught high school English for almost ten years in Durham, NC.



Sharif El-Mekki
Founder and CEO
Center for Black Educator
Development

Mr. Sharif El-Mekki is the Founder and CEO of the Center for Black Educator Development. The Center exists to ensure equity in the recruiting, training, hiring and retaining quality educators that reflect the cultural backgrounds and share common socio-political interests with the students they serve. In addition, the Center carries forth a liberatory education framework by hosting the Freedom Schools Literacy Academy, which incorporates research-based curricula and exposes high school and college students to the teaching profession to help fuel a pipeline of Black educators.

**Virtual Event Date:
Monday, November 15th 7:00 PM**

To Register: https://rutgers.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-bHJ-yeWRj--ju4Obedt1w

CO-SPONSORED BY: RUTGERS-NEWARK DEPARTMENT OF URBAN EDUCATION RUTGERS-NEWARK JOSEPH C. CORNWALL CENTER FOR METROPOLITAN STUDIES

ABOUT THE VIRTUAL SERIES

This event is sponsored by The Freedom School Project, an attempt to change the national conversation about education for the children of disenfranchised communities. We advocate re-engineering some schools in such communities based on the principles underlying Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Freedom Schools and similar efforts -- schools that approach learning as affirming, elevating, rigorous, joyous, and transformative for self and community. For further information or to join our mailing list, write cornwall1@newark.rutgers.edu.

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READING & WATCHING LIST:

From Philadelphia:

1. <https://thephiladelphiacitizen.org/sharif-el-mekki-black-educators/>
2. <https://edtrust.org/profiles-in-education-equity-sharif-el-mekki-leading-with-equity-and-justice/>

From Durham:

1. Short Film featuring Dr. Ronda: [Dear White Parents](#) (trailer); [Full film](#)
2. WRAL video & article on **we are** Summer Camps: [I'm an activist, Mommy: Durham anti-racist summer camp educates children on racial identities](#)
3. WRAL video & article [Name discrimination is one of the first types of racism kids face](#)

From Allentown:

1. James Lawson Freedom School (Allentown, PA)
<http://www.rcdclv.org/james-lawson-freedom-school.html>
1. Resurrected Community Development Corporation
www.rcdclv.org/index.html
2. Campaign for Change (C4C)
<http://www.rcdclv.org/campaign-for-change.html>