



TEN NEWSLETTER

Bimonthly Newsletter of the
Transformative Education Network
at Montclair State University

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COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

When building the curriculum for TEN, there was an intentional focus on community partnership and organizing. Over the summer, UTR residents received an introduction to working with community-based organizations (CBOs) as a way to deepen their connection to the neighborhoods they will serve when they are teachers of record. Residents partnered with three CBOs to participate in and learn about the work happening in the community.

- **Clinton Hill Community Action** "values community voice by collaborating with residents and other stakeholders to catalyze equitable physical redevelopment opportunities, contributing to a safe, healthy and economically vibrant arts and culture community."
- **Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC)** "works with the people of the Ironbound neighborhood to identify needs and develop community-based solutions for them."
- **Make the Road NJ** "empowers immigrant, working-class & Latinx communities to achieve dignity and respect through community organizing, legal support, policy innovation and transformative education."

The purpose of these partnerships is for the residents to carry understandings of community assets and needs into their classrooms and allow it to inform their teaching. Community Responsive Pedagogy (CRP), similar to culturally responsive pedagogy, supports residents to bring the lives of students into the classroom. The idea behind CRP is that no one group is a monolith. There is not a singular Latinx cultural experience nor is there a singular Black cultural experience. Each individual community has its own strengths, resources and needs which can be tapped into by individual educators. Building a community responsive curriculum requires partnering with families, communities, and organizations that are truly community helpers. This encourages students to identify the collective wealth and organizing efforts present in their own communities and empowers them to participate. ([Read more about how the residents brought this understanding into their classrooms within the "Did You Know" section on page 4.](#))

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Cyrene Crooms

As the Field Coordinator for TEN, Cyrene observes and coaches UTR and NTP residents and serves as the main liaison between MSU and our partner schools. She also teaches Elementary Literacy to the UTR residents and is a Teacher Education PhD candidate at MSU. Her dissertation will focus on teacher activism.

• How and why did you get involved with the TEN?

Other people have celebrity crushes, I have scholarly crushes and [TEN Co-directors] Drs. Maloney and Picower were scholarly crushes of mine. I'd read their work and admired their passionate stance on the importance of developing anti-racist teachers. So it was really a dream of mine to come work with them and be a part of a program that cultivates the best teachers.

• What is your "why" for antiracist/social justice education?

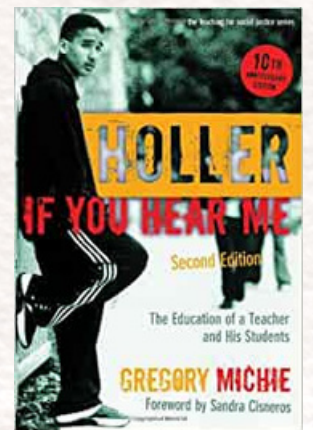
I want to help create a more just world for our young people. bell hooks says that feminism is for everyone, and I believe that an anti-racist, anti-bias, socially just world is for everyone. We're all connected in the human experience, and I feel my purpose is to work toward this goal through teacher education.

• What is one change you'd like to see in public education?

Humanize it. More love and care. I believe that we all have basic needs as human beings: to be fed, to be clothed, to be nurtured, to be loved, to feel safe, and I feel like those are on the back burner in our education system. We're focused on math scores when we literally have children that come to school hungry or don't have a safe space at home and that's not at the center of our work. I believe that if we focused more on students having their basic needs met and feeling seen, heard and valued, we'd see massive gains in "student achievement."

• What's the book that changed your life?

Gregory Michie's *Holler If You Hear Me: The Education of a Teacher and His Students*. I read it over a school break early in my teaching career, at a time when I wanted to give up. It gave me hope and gave me permission to be an imperfect teacher. It gave me permission not to have all the answers and showed me that it was enough to be present with my kids and keep showing up. (Click on the book image to the right to purchase.)



UPCOMING EVENTS



December 6 via Zoom
• 10 am - 12 pm EST
Core Planning Meeting

December 17 via Zoom
• 9 am - 2 pm EST
Mentor Professional Development

December 24 - January 2
NBOE Winter Vacation

January 7
• 9 am - 2 pm EST
**Mentor Professional Development
*Mentors Only***

February 1
Start of Black History Month

February 17 via Zoom
• 6 - 7:30 pm EST
**CUE Speaker Series:
Dr. Carla Shalaby
Author of "Troublemakers: Lessons
in Freedom from Young Children at
School"**
[View the flyer](#) and [Register](#)

Friday January 14 via Zoom
• 8:45 - 3:15 pm EST
**Induction Day
1st, 2nd, 3rd Year Teachers in
Induction PD**
More info to follow.



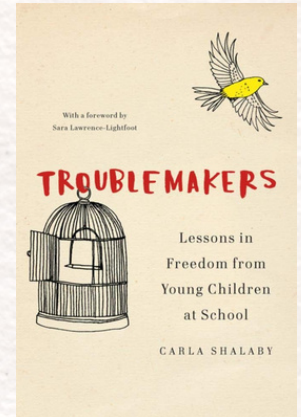
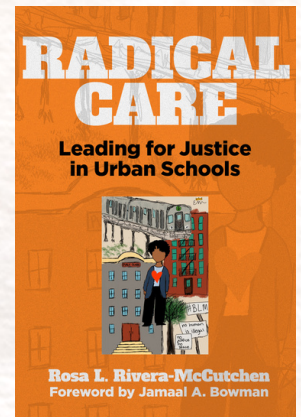
CUE - CRITICAL URBAN EDUCATION SPEAKER SERIES

The October 21 CUE event with Dr. Rosa Rivera-McCutchen was ELECTRIC! Shout out to DJ Justis for bringing the energy and Alisha Diaz for her thought-provoking and inspiring poem.

Dr. Rivera-McCutchen argued that traditional perspectives of "care" are not always in the best interest of students, specifically our Black and Latinx children, and tasked educators with adopting a stance of radical care. During her talk, Dr. Rivera-McCutchen outlined the five components of radical care—adopting an antiracist stance, cultivating authentic relationships, believing in students' and teachers' capacity for excellence, leveraging power strategically, and embracing a spirit of radical hope. Calling for educators to thoughtfully challenge existing structures that reproduce inequality, her book "Radical Care: Leading for Justice in Urban Schools" offers a much-needed framework that guides practice with a sense of urgency and a spirit of hope. Purchase the book by clicking on the book image above to the right.

Our next CUE event will feature Dr. Carla Shalaby, the author of "Troublemakers: Lessons in Freedom from Young Children at School," on February 17, 2022. [View the flyer here](#), [register here](#), and purchase her book by clicking on the image to the right! Stay in touch and [click here to join our mailing list](#).

The Critical Urban Education (CUE) Speaker Series is a bi-annual event bringing leading national scholars to Montclair State University. CUE provides a forum to develop attendees' racial and political analysis through a series of lectures and workshops focused on social and cultural issues influencing urban schools and communities. [Learn more and watch previous talks here](#).



CALLING ALL TEN ALUMNI !

ANTIRACISM & SOCIAL JUSTICE RESOURCES



Image from: <https://www.bu.edu/antiracism-center/>

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Our TEN social media team would love to feature **YOU** on our Instagram page.

Complete this [Google Form](#) to be included in our weekly "Teacher Tuesday" spotlight!

Find some examples on [our Insta](#) and feel free to DM us with any questions!

455 likes

transformativeeducationnetwork
Calling All TEN Alumni !!!

Our resident-led social media team has been sharing useful resources on our Instagram ([@TransformativeEducationNetwork](#)) as part of our "Resource Wednesday" feature.

Here's a highlight of our recently shared resources:

- [Zinn Education Project](#) ([@zinneducationproject](#))
- [Social Justice Books](#) ([@sojustbooks](#))
- [The Social Justice Education Planner](#)

For more resources, please visit our [Instagram page!](#)



MEET THE TEN TEAM



DR. JENNIFER ROBINSON
Advisor

DR. TANYA MALONEY
Co-Director

DR. BREE PICOWER
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Induction Coordinator

MS. CYRENE CROOMS
Field Team Coordinator

MS. KATE FERNANDEZ
Field Team Member

MS. MARY BENNETT
Field Team Member

DR. LEAH OWENS
Field Team Member

MS. DONATA NICHOLS
Field Team Member

DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know that all TEN Residents are creating social justice unit plans? Kathryn Restituyo and Katiana LaCroix developed a unit on community activism featuring members of the CBOs they worked with over the summer. "The community partnership that we built in the summer influenced our Social Justice unit, inspiring our out-of-the-box thinking. [We shifted] how we are teaching common topics such as "community helpers" to be more culturally relevant for our students... We wanted our students to understand that being a community helper can also come from being a community activist." (see an adorable example of a student's understanding below!)

Christian Rodriguez of Down Bottom Farms, a part of the ICC, was invited to the residents' classrooms (virtually) and introduced as a community helper/activist. Christian teaches members of the Ironbound community about farming, trains local students to work on the farm, and hosts community events including educational programming and a weekly farmers market. This summer, Christian led the UTR residents on one of ICC's environmental justice tours around the Ironbound to raise awareness of the pollution contained in this specific section of Newark. By bringing this community knowledge into the classroom the residents are able to help their students develop a sense of agency and personal power in addressing the injustices present in their own communities. Kathryn and Katiana noted that "the work with the community partners strengthened our unit because it solidified how community activism and activists can create substantial change right in their 'backyard'... Our students are able to see that within their own community activism plays a vital role."

