WINNING THE RACE
Advancing Education in the Mississippi Delta
DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MARCH 27 - 28, 2017
A CHANGED WORLD BEGINS WITH A CHANGED SELF.
WINNING THE RACE
Advancing Education in the Mississippi Delta

Sunday, March 26
PRE-CONFERENCE OPEN HOUSE
2:00PM—6:00PM \ Amzie Moore House Museum and Interpretive Center, 614 South Chrisman Street

Monday, March 27
REGISTRATION
8:00AM—6:00PM \ Bologna Performing Arts Center
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
8:00AM—9:00AM \ Lobby, BPAC
OPENING SESSION
9:00AM—10:50AM \ Delta and Pineland Theatre, BPAC
POSTER COMPETITION
11:00AM—11:50AM \ West Hall, BPAC
BREAKOUT SESSION I
11:00AM—11:50AM
TRACK 1: SOCIAL JUSTICE, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND LAW
Jobe Auditorium, E.R. Jobe Hall
Arnold Chandler
TRACK 2: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
Room 101, R.L. Caylor Hall
Charles Lee

STUDENT LUNCHEON
12:00PM—1:15PM \ Second Floor, East Lobby, H.L. Nowell Union
Vernell Bennett and Travis Calvin
Panel Discussion with Student Leaders
LUNCH AND LEARN
12:00PM—1:15PM \ Jacob Conference Center, James M. Ewing Hall
Ivory Toldson
BREAKOUT SESSION II
2:00PM—3:15PM
TRACK 3: EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY
Jobe Auditorium, E.R. Jobe Hall
Ivye Allen and Derrick Johnson
TRACK 4: CULTURE AND COMMUNITY
Room 101, R.L. Caylor Hall
Jackie Mercer

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
3:30PM—5:30PM \ Recital Hall, BPAC
The R.O.O.T.S.

PRESIDENT’S RECEPTION
5:30PM—6:30PM \ Lobby, BPAC
PLENARY SESSION
6:30PM—8:00PM \ Delta and Pineland Theatre, BPAC
Jennifer Stollman, Ivory Toldson, Virgil Belue, Edgar Villanueva, Dominique Scott

Tuesday, March 28
REGISTRATION
8:00AM—10:00AM \ BPAC
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
9:00AM—9:25AM \ Served at Breakout Session
BREAKOUT SESSION III
9:25AM—10:40AM
TRACK 1: SOCIAL JUSTICE, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND LAW
Recital Hall, BPAC
Charles Bolton
TRACK 2: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
Jobe Auditorium, E.R. Jobe Hall
Edgar Villanueva and Rachel Mayes
BREAKOUT SESSION IV
10:50AM—12:05PM
TRACK 3: EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY
Recital Hall, BPAC
Michele Alexandre, Daniel Doyle and Lynn Woo
TRACK 4: CULTURE AND COMMUNITY
Jobe Auditorium, E.R. Jobe Hall
Jaribu Hill
CLOSING SESSION
12:15PM—1:30PM \ Jobe Auditorium, E.R. Jobe Hall
WINNING THE RACE
Advancing Education in the Mississippi Delta

HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP FORUM
MONDAY, MARCH 27

OPENING SESSION
9:00AM—10:50AM \ Delta and Pineland Theatre, BPAC
William C. Bell. President and CEO, Casey Family Programs

ICE BREAKER
11:00AM – 11:50AM \ Baioni Conference Center, James W. Broom Hall
The William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation. University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS

STUDENT LUNCHEON
12:00PM – 1:50PM \ Second Floor East Lobby, H.L. Nowell Union
Vernell Bennett. Vice President of Student Affairs, Delta State University
Travis Calvin. Project Coordinator, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Young Men of Color, Delta State University
Student Leaders. Delta State University and Mississippi Valley State University

RAP SESSION/CALL TO ACTION
2:00PM – 3:30PM \ Baioni Conference Center, James W. Broom Hall
PRESENTERS
LaToysha Brown, Undergraduate Student, University of Southern Mississippi.
Brown attends the University of Southern Mississippi where she majors in sociology and minors in African-American studies. She started her activism in middle school through poetry. She used her spoken word skills to deliver messages about social justice issues inside and outside of the black community. Currently, she is practicing her activism on University of Southern Mississippi’s campus by using sociology to research the school to prison pipeline, specifically the effects of the zero tolerance policy in the public school system.

Dominique Scott, Senior Undergraduate Student, University of Mississippi.
Scott is a native of Dallas, Texas. She is in her final year of undergraduate studies pursuing Bachelors in Sociology and African American Studies. She is President and Founder of Students Against Social Injustice (SASI) and Treasurer for the University of Mississippi NAACP. In the fall of 2015, Dominique was responsible for co-organizing and training students for the historic “Take Down the Flag” campaign at the University of Mississippi. Dominique believes in the power of collective action and radically reimagining institutional power. She travels the country speaking and conducting community workshops and trainings for students and prospective activists.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
3:30PM – 5:30PM \ Recital Hall, BPAC
The R.O.O.T.S.
The Sunflower County Systems Change Project (SCSCP) is aimed at creating positive outcomes for young men and boys of color by disrupting the school to prison pipeline. Critical to the work is the voice and participation of the youth. As a part of a partnership between the SCSCP and the Story for All organization from Oakland, California, 19 African American young men have been working to collect the stories from their Mississippi Delta community to help impact change through story. Affectionately named the R.O.O.T.S. of Sunflower, which stands for Reclaiming Our Origins Through Story, these young men have added true narrative to the work of disrupting the school to prison pipeline. Their journey to collect stories and display their voice, hope, and commitment to their community has been curated into an art exhibit. This traveling multimedia exhibit will not only tell the stories collected by the “The R.O.O.T.S.” through digital, printed, and artistic mediums, but also tell a broader story of the policies and practices that disproportionately affect young men and boys of color across the country and specifically in the Mississippi Delta.

The High School Leadership Forum is financially assisted by the Mississippi Humanities Council
Greetings!

Welcome to Delta State University and to the fourth annual “Winning the Race” conference!

This year’s theme is “Advancing Education in the Mississippi Delta.” This dynamic conference promises to be as enlightening and meaningful as our previous years’ experiences, and I encourage your full participation.

Outstanding faculty and presenters will lead discussions on educational inequities and opportunities to strengthen education throughout the Delta. Conference presentations, topics, and interaction will afford you an interactive platform to probe challenges and solutions associated with one of the most vital public policy issues of our times.

I am grateful for your engagement with Delta State in this signature conference, and I welcome you to our beautiful campus!

All the best,

William N. LaForge

President, Delta State University
Dear Friends and Community Members,

It is my distinct honor and privilege to welcome you to the fourth annual Winning the Race Conference. This conference is designed to facilitate and engage campus and community dialogue regarding issues related to race and social justice and to rekindle opportunities for municipalities of the Mississippi Delta to collaborate and promote racial healing.

As a native Mississippian and alumnus of Delta State University, this year’s conference, “Advancing Education in the Mississippi Delta,” is meaningful to me both personally and professionally. My family and education were the foundation for my pathway to success in life from my earliest days growing up in Pace, Mississippi to becoming president and CEO of Casey Family Programs.

Forging meaningful partnerships and strategic investments across business, philanthropy, government and community is the only way to build new pathways to educational opportunity and economic success for children and families in the Delta. This year’s conference is full of examples and strategies designed to inspire new ways of thinking and responding to pressing issues impacting the quality of education and community well-being.

I am grateful for the opportunity to lend my voice and to support my home and alma mater.

Sincerely,

Dr. William C. Bell
President and CEO, Casey Family Programs
Delta State University Class of 1982
Welcome Attendees,

I am delighted you have joined this extremely important conference at Delta State University. It is a tremendous honor to serve as a chair of the External Advisory Committee and work alongside my great friend, Delta State University’s President, William N. Laforge. His extraordinary leadership has made this conference possible. The dedicated staff and faculty of the University have worked tirelessly to present an engaging and powerful program which focuses on what is possible if we can find ways to move forward.

It is no secret that all of us live today in an increasingly unsettling world. It is unfortunate that the reports from around the world constantly remind us of all of our difference in opinion, in skin color, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity and social class. There has never been a more important time than now for all of us to discard this destructive way of viewing the world. We must not allow others to try to operate us from each other, but instead find the many similarities we share in our dreams and our hopes for ourselves, and our loved ones. At the end of the day, don’t most of us want the same things? A safe place to raise our families, a good solid education for our children, a fair shot at a job we can find meaning in and a chance to perhaps leave the place we call home, better than how we found it.

This conference will remind us again, that in order for ALL of us to move forward, we must first lift each one of us up. And the strength gained from our common humanity will continue to power us through the challenges ahead.

Your presence here today confirms your interest as well as your commitment to a more open and just society and I salute all of you for being here. I commend Delta State for its continued leadership in hosting this conference and I thank you for allowing me to join in as we continue this journey together.

William F. Winter
Former Governor, State of Mississippi
The Winning the Race Conference was developed with three overarching goals: engage in conversations with campus and community constituencies that will build an appreciation for diversity differences and a spirit of community through shared ideas; promote a broad discourse on race relations by building conversations to bring together diverse communities in the Delta through sharing of ideas and building cooperation; and to rekindle a hope that Delta communities will move toward greater equality and forward and open thinking while reducing racial disparities and tensions.

BREAKOUT SESSION TRACKS

TRACK 1. SOCIAL JUSTICE, CIVIL RIGHTS & LAW
This track has sessions designed to address a diverse set of issues related to civil rights, racial equity and racial healing. There is a focus on addressing racial differences in the implementation of law in the criminal justice system and associated societal consequences.

TRACK 2. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
This track addresses matters relating to equity and economic opportunities with an emphasis on how societal organizations advance or restrict socioeconomic opportunities and mobility among diverse groups. Sessions will emphasize the important roles that diversity and inclusion play in creating economic opportunity on local and global scales.

TRACK 3. EDUCATION & COMMUNITY
This track addresses diversity in the college curriculum and diversity in student leadership. The segment includes conversations on how to teach race and race relations in the classroom at both conceptual and practical levels, as well as from historical perspectives. It facilitates dialogue on positive race relations as well as on meaningful actions to foster understanding that builds strong relationships for connected communities. Global perspectives are incorporated in all sessions.

TRACK 4. CULTURE & COMMUNITY
This track addresses the institutionalization of best practices for inclusion, cultural awareness and respect for differences, while charting avenues for sustained action in diverse communities. Sessions will help to create change through a spirit of cooperation by motivating participants to enhance their appreciation for experiences and perspectives shaped by culture, to create positive change in their communities, and to spread awareness by cooperating and forming alliances with diverse groups.
Sunday, March 26, 2017

PRE-CONFERENCE OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, MARCH 26 2:00PM – 6:00PM AMZIE MOORE HOUSE
Special Open House and Press Conference at the Amzie Moore House Museum and Interpretive Center located at 614 Chrisman Street. A 3:00pm Press Conference held in recognition and honor of Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, Inc. Event open to the public.

Monday, March 27, 2017

REGISTRATION
8:00AM – 6:00PM BOLOGNA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
8:00AM – 9:00AM LOBBY, BPAC

OPENING SESSION
9:00AM – 10:50AM DELTA & PINELAND THEATRE, BPAC

WELCOME
Temika Simmons. Assistant Professor of Psychology and Psychology Program Coordinator, Delta State University

REMARKS
William N. LaForge. President, Delta State University

PRESENTER
William C. Bell. President and CEO, Casey Family Programs
Bell became president and chief executive officer of Casey Family Programs in January 2006. He chairs the Executive Team and is ultimately responsible for the vision, mission, strategies and objectives of the foundation. Prior to leading the foundation, he served as executive vice president for child and family services. Prior to joining Casey Family Programs, he was commissioner of the New York City Administration for Children’s Services. He has more than 35 years of experience in the human services field.

BREAKOUT SESSION I
11:00AM – 11:50AM

POSTER COMPETITION AND JUDGING WEST HALL, BPAC

REMARKS
Lekeitha Morris. Chair and Assistant Professor of Speech and Hearing Services, Delta State University
TRACK 1. SOCIAL JUSTICE, CIVIL RIGHTS & LAW
JOBE AUDITORIUM, E.R. JOBE HALL

PRESENTER
Arnold L. Chandler. Principal and Co-founder, Forward Change Consulting

Chandler is an advocate, researcher, trainer and strategy consultant who for more than 13 years has helped nonprofits and foundations advance programs and policies focused on social and economic equity. He has been working on efforts to improve the health and well-being of boys and men of color specifically since 2007. Recently, he was a Senior Policy Associate with the Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy at U.C. Berkeley Law School working on policies to improve the lives of Boys and Men of color across California. Now he works with foundations and nonprofit organizations to advance their most mission-critical strategic initiatives. Chandler’s work is focused on mission impact strategy, evidence-based practices, and leadership development for social change and equity-focused organizations.

TRACK 2. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
ROOM 101, R.L. CAYLOR HALL

PRESENTER
Charles O. Lee. Director of Consumer Protection, Mississippi Center for Justice

Lee serves as the Director of Consumer Protection for the Mississippi Center for Justice in the Jackson office. He attended Rust College where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1995 and received his Juris Doctorate Degree in 1998 from the University of Mississippi School of Law. Prior to joining the Center, Lee practiced law on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and in the State of Georgia focusing his practice on insurance defense, commercial litigation and personal injury litigation. He has held leadership positions in a wide variety of organizations.

STUDENT LUNCHEON
12:00PM – 1:50PM // SECOND FLOOR EAST LOBBY, H.L. NOWELL UNION

PANELISTS
Vernell Bennett. Vice President of Student Affairs, Delta State University

Bennett is currently serving as the Vice President for Student Affairs at Delta State University. She began her postsecondary career at Kentucky State University (KSU) as a non-tenure track Instructor of Music and advanced to the rank of tenured Associate Professor before transitioning to several administration roles, including Vice President for Student Affairs. Bennett received a Bachelor’s of Music in Vocal Performance from Fisk University, a Master of Arts in Vocal Performance from Eastern Michigan University, and a Doctorate of Education in Administration and Instruction from the University of Kentucky.

Travis Calvin. Project Coordinator, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Young Men of Color, Delta State University

Calvin earned a bachelor’s degree in Music Industry Studies from Delta State University in 2013. He has served in the classroom as a music and music technology instructor through the Delta Blues Museum, Delta Arts Alliance, and the DMI Mobil Music Lab. Calvin is also an accomplished guitarist and an experienced audio engineer. He joined the DMI staff in 2013 as the Project Coordinator of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Young Men of Color grant titled “Healing with a Groove.”

Student Leaders. Delta State University and Mississippi Valley State University
Coleman Armes, Marwa Cherraf, Ashley Griffin, Johnna Ladd, Allie Rose Parker, Alandria Ramsey, Conner Taylor

Delta State University Students

Henry Akaaze
Mississippi Valley State University Student

LUNCH AND LEARN
12:00PM – 1:50PM // JACOB CONFERENCE CENTER, JAMES M. EWING HALL

PRESENTER
Ivory A. Toldson. President and CEO, Quality Education for Minorities Network

Toldson is the President and CEO of the QEM Network, professor of counseling psychology at Howard University and editor-in-chief of The Journal of Negro Education. Previously, Dr. Toldson was appointed by President Barack Obama to devise national strategies to sustain and expand federal support to HBCUs as the executive director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (WHIHBHCUs). He also served as senior research analyst for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and contributing education editor for The Root, where he debunked some of the most pervasive myths about African-Americans in his Show Me the Numbers column. He is married to Marshella Toldson, and together, they are raising their daughter, Makena and their son, Ivory Kaleb.
BREAKOUT SESSION II
2:00PM – 3:15PM

TRACK 3. EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY \ JOBE AUDITORIUM, E.R. JOBE HALL

PRESENTERS
Ivye Allen, President, Foundation of the Mid South.

Allen is President of the Foundation for the Mid South, a regional foundation serving Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The Foundation funds programs and initiatives that focus on community development, education, health and wellness, and wealth building. Since its inception in 1990, the Foundation has leveraged more than $750 million to the region. Prior work experience includes serving as Chief Operating Officer for MDC Inc. and Director of Fellowship Programs for the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Her education includes a Ph.D. in social policy from Columbia University; a M.S. in Urban Affairs from Hunter College; a M.B.A. in marketing and international business from New York University; and a bachelor's in economics from Howard University. She serves on numerous board and advisory groups and is a member of several professional and social organizations.

Derrick Johnson, Executive Director, One Voice Inc.

Johnson serves as State President for the Mississippi State Conference NAACP and Executive Director of One Voice, Inc. He holds a Juris Doctorate from South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas and a Bachelor of Arts from Tougaloo College in Jackson, MS. Johnson successfully managed the Convention Center bond referendum campaign to construct a $65 million convention center in the city of Jackson. He founded One Voice, Inc., a non-profit social justice organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for African Americans and other disenfranchised communities by increasing civic engagement in the formation of public policy through leadership development, research support, training, and technical assistance.

TRACK 4. CULTURE AND COMMUNITY \ ROOM 101, R.L. CAYLOR HALL

PRESENTER
Jackie Mercer, English Teacher, Crestview High School, Columbus, Ohio

Mercer graduated from Youngstown State University in northeast Ohio with her Bachelor's degree in English Education in 2009 and her Master's degree in English in 2012. She teaches at a primarily white, rural high school in Columbiana, Ohio. In 2013, after realizing her students had little exposure to anyone different than them, she taught a book about Emmett Till for the first time. In 2014 she visited the Mississippi Delta and Delta State University as a part of the National Endowment for the Humanities workshop “The Most Southern Place on Earth.” Since then she has worked to incorporate civil rights history into her English class by bringing new curriculum and speakers to her classroom. She is also a 2015 participant in Delta State University's International Blues Scholar Program.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
3:30PM – 5:30PM \ RECITAL HALL, BPAC

PRESENTERS
The R.O.O.T.S.

The Sunflower County Systems Change Project (SCSCP) is aimed at creating positive outcomes for young men and boys of color by disrupting the school to prison pipeline. Critical to the work is the voice and participation of the youth. As a part of a partnership between the SCSCP and the Story for All organization from Oakland, California, 19 African American young men have been working to collect the stories from their Mississippi Delta community to help impact change through story. Affectionately named the R.O.O.T.S. of Sunflower, which stands for Reclaiming Our Origins Through Story, these young men have added true narrative to the work of disrupting the school to prison pipeline. Their journey to collect stories and display their voice, hope, and commitment to their community has been curated into an art exhibit. This traveling multimedia exhibit will not only tell the stories collected by the “The R.O.O.T.S.” through digital, printed, and artistic mediums, but also tell a broader story of the policies and practices that disproportionately affect young men and boys of color across the country and specifically in the Mississippi Delta.

PRESIDENT’S RECEPTION
5:30PM – 6:30PM \ LOBBY, BPAC

ENTERTAINMENT
Delta Blues Museum Band

The Delta Blues Museum Band, from Clarksdale, is made up of students from the Museum’s Arts & Education Program. This program develops learning and life skills in young people by engaging them in creative youth programs. The band is one of twelve throughout the nation to be honored with the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award in 2014, where they were then given the opportunity to perform at the awards ceremony held in the East Wing of the White House.
PLENARY SESSION

6:30PM – 8:00PM \ DELTA AND PINELAND THEATRE, BPAC

GREETINGS
Allie Rose Parker. President, Delta State Student Government Association

WELCOME
Temika Simmons. Assistant Professor of Psychology and Psychology Program Coordinator, Delta State University

REMARKS
William N. LaForge. President, Delta State University

MODERATOR
Jennifer Stollman. Academic Director, William Winter Institute

Stollman is the Academic Director of the William Winter Institute. Jennifer is responsible for campus professional development, anti-oppression training, curricular and co-curricular development, crisis management, and is a consultant for detecting and eliminating institutional and interpersonal bias. She works with campuses across the region including the University of Mississippi, Delta State University, University of Southern Mississippi, and Tulane University. Jennifer spent 18 years in graduate and undergraduate classrooms as a professor of history and gender and women's studies. She specializes in issues related to the construction, projections, and deployment of individual and collective identities. Jennifer is committed to equity work taking place across campuses.

PRESENTERS

Ivory A. Tol'dson. President and CEO, QEM Network

Tol’dson is the President and CEO of the QEM Network, professor of counseling psychology at Howard University and editor-in-chief of The Journal of Negro Education. Previously, Dr. Tol’dson was appointed by President Barack Obama to devise national strategies to sustain and expand federal support to HBCUs as the executive director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (WHIIHBCUs). He also served as senior research analyst for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and contributing education editor for The Root, where he debunked some of the most pervasive myths about African-Americans in his Show Me the Numbers column. He is married to Marshella Tol’dson, and together, they are raising their daughter, Makena and their son, Ivory Kaleb.

Virgil Belue. Former Superintendent, Clinton Public School District

Belue is a native of Tishomingo County, MS. He has a Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctorate degrees from MS State University. After his service in the U.S. Air Force, he worked in schools in Pontotoc County, Tupelo, and Clinton- all of which are in Mississippi. In 1970, he had the unique experience of being the first superintendent of the newly organized Clinton Public School District, a position he held until his retirement in 1992. He moved to the Clinton job on July 28, 1970, to start the new school district with no central office, central office staff, district maintenance personnel, school buses or drivers, funds in the bank, district budget, principals for two schools, and one newly constructed elementary school building with no furniture. However, he opened school in four weeks as scheduled. After his retirement, he served for 18 years as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Public Employees’ Retirement System of Mississippi with perfect attendance at all board meetings. Dr. Belue and his wife of 66 years, Aline, reside in Clinton and have four children and six grandchildren.

Edgar Villanueva. Vice President of Programs and Advocacy, Schott Foundation

Villanueva joined the Schott Foundation as Vice President of Programs and Advocacy on June 1, 2015. In this role, Edgar guides the Foundation’s resource delivery strategy, including the provision of grant making, communications, network building, and policy advocacy supports. In 2011, he was named the founding Executive Director of the North Carolina American Indian Health Board, a statewide nonprofit working to advance health equity for American Indians through research, education, and advocacy. For many years, Edgar has been a social justice advocate for youth and communities of color, and he has held leadership roles on various boards and advisory committees such as The Executives’ Alliance to Expand Opportunities for Boys and Men of Color and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Forward Promise National Advisory Committee.

Dominique Scott. Senior Undergraduate Student, University of Mississippi

Scott is a native of Dallas, Texas. She is in her final year of undergraduate study pursuing Bachelors in Sociology and African American Studies. She is President and Founder of Students Against Social Injustice, or SASI and Treasurer for the UM NAACP. In the fall of 2015, Dominique was responsible for co-organizing and training students for the historic Take Down the Flag campaign at the University of Mississippi. Dominique believes in the power of collective action and radically reimagining institutional power, she travels the country speaking and conducting community workshops and trainings for students and prospective activists.
Tuesday, March 28, 2017

REGISTRATION
8:00AM – 10:00AM ▼ Bologna Performing Arts Center

BREAKOUT SESSION III

9:25AM – 10:40AM ▼ BPAC
*Continental Breakfast Served on site 9:00AM – 9:25AM

TRACK 1. SOCIAL JUSTICE, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND LAW ▼ RECITAL HALL, BPAC

Preparer: Charles C. Bolton. Professor of History, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Bolton is Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. From 2005 until July 2015, he was Head of the UNCG Department of History. Prior to that, he was Professor and Chair of the Department of History at the University of Southern Mississippi. From 1990 to 2000, Bolton was Director of the Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage at the University of Southern Mississippi. Bolton’s major publications include William F. Winter and the New Mississippi: A Biography (University Press of Mississippi, 2013); With All Deliberate Speed: Implementing Brown v. Board of Education, edited jointly with Brian J. Daugherty (University of Arkansas Press, 2008); The Hardest Deal of All: The Battle over School Integration in Mississippi, 1870-1980 (University Press of Mississippi, 2005); The Confessions of Edward Isham: A Poor White Life of the Old South, edited jointly with Scott Culclasure (University of Georgia Press, 1998); and Poor Whites of the Antebellum South: Tenants and Laborers in Central North Carolina and Northeast Mississippi (Duke University Press, 1994).

TRACK 2. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES ▼ JOBE AUDITORIUM, E.R. JOBE HALL

Preparers: Edgar Villanueva. Vice President of Programs and Advocacy, Schott Foundation

Villanueva joined the Schott Foundation as Vice President of Programs and Advocacy on June 1, 2015. In this role, Edgar guides the Foundation’s resource delivery strategy, including the provision of grant making, communications, network building, and policy advocacy supports. In 2011, he was named the founding Executive Director of the North Carolina American Indian Health Board, a statewide nonprofit working to advance health equity for American Indians through research, education, and advocacy. For many years, Edgar has been a social justice advocate for youth and communities of color; and he has held leadership roles on various boards and advisory committees such as The Executives’ Alliance to Expand Opportunities for Boys and Men of Color and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Forward Promise National Advisory Committee.

Rachel Mayes. Executive Director, Southern Echo

Mayes brings more than 25 years of public, private and government experience in management, financial services and organizational development. She has an undergraduate in Finance and an MBA. As a native of Florence, Mississippi, her values are deeply rooted in family and community. She has been instrumental in bridging community leaders together to address issues involving: land zoning, civic engagement, human services, organizational development and school bond issues.

BREAKOUT SESSION IV

10:50AM – 12:05PM

TRACK 3. EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ▼ RECITAL HALL, BPAC

Preparers: Michele Alexandre. Professor of Law, University of Mississippi Law School

Alexandre joined the University of Mississippi School of Law in 2008 as an Associate Professor. She is the first black woman valedictorian of Colgate University. She earned her Juris Doctor degree (J.D.) from Harvard Law School. Her teaching and scholarly areas include constitutional law, international law, civil rights law, disability law, critical race theory, human rights and gender. She was named one of Ebony Magazine’s Top 100 influential African Americans of 2013 and one of the 50 “Most Influential Minority Law Professors 50 Years of Age or Younger” by Lawyers of Color Magazine. She has received Fulbright and Watson Fellowships. Professor Alexandre also works on issues of sustainability and economic independence for small farmers in Mississippi’s Delta and other areas of the rural South. In the fall of 2012 and spring of 2015, she organized national conferences, hosted by the University of Mississippi, focusing on issues of sustainability and social justice for poor populations of the rural south.
Daniel Doyle.  
Executive Director,  
Mississippi Sustainable Agriculture Network

Doyle has a background in both education and agriculture. After teaching, he left the classroom to co-found and manage one of Mississippi’s first CSA farms, Yokna (patawpha) Bottoms, in Oxford, MS. He later co-founded Mississippi Ecological Design, a permaculture design business, which developed school gardens and natural play-scapes in Lafayette County, as well as several soil and water management projects in North Mississippi. During this time, he designed and directed the Mississippi Mobile Farm on Wheels project.

Doyle is currently the Director of the Mississippi Sustainable Agriculture Network (MSAN), whose mission is to make sustainable farming and local food production thriving enterprises in Mississippi. Doyle also serves on multiple Boards, including the North Mississippi Land Trust, the Mississippi Food Policy Council, and the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group.

Lynn C. Woo. Research Associate for Center of Population Studies, University of Mississippi

Woo is a Research Associate for the Center for Population Studies, which is housed within the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Mississippi. At the Center, she is part of a team of researchers that educates, conducts research, and engages in public outreach concerning population issues. She has worked on numerous research projects, mainly centered on community development and community health, with many different partners such as the nonprofit organizations and government agencies. She received her MA from the University of Mississippi in Sociology.
ONGOING PARTNERSHIPS AND PROJECTS

IDEAS ON TAP
**Hey Joe’s**
Cleveland, MS // October 27, 2016 // 5:30pm

EMOTIONAL EMANCIPATION CIRCLE TRAINING
**Baioni Conference Center, James W. Broom Hall**
Delta State University // February 24 - 25, 2017

“LUNCH & LEARN” WITH JUDGE JARIBU HILL
**Coahoma County Higher Education Center**
Clarksdale, MS // March 23, 2017 // 12:15 pm

OPEN HOUSE AND PRESS CONFERENCE
**Amzie Moore House Museum and Interpretive Center**
Cleveland, MS // March 26, 2017 // 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

RACE AND SUSTAINABILITY SYMPOSIUM
**University of Mississippi**
Oxford, MS // March 29 - 30, 2017

VETERANS OF THE MISSISSIPPI CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT CONFERENCE
**Tougaloo College**
Tougaloo, MS // March 29 - April 2, 2017

DARE HE: THE STORY OF EMMITT TILL
**Delta State University**
Bologna Performing Arts Center
April 4, 2017 // 7:00pm

20TH ANNUAL SAMMY O. CRANFORD MEMORIAL HISTORY LECTURE
**Jobe Auditorium, E.R. Jobe Hall**
Delta State University // April 6, 2017 // 7:00 pm

MARCO PAVE & ALFRED BANKS: HIP HOP CONCERT, LUNCHEON, AND PANEL DISCUSSION
**Baioni Conference Center, James W. Broom Hall**
Delta State University // April 11, 2017 // 11:00 am

IDEAS ON TAP
**Location TBD**
April 2017

WILLIAM WINTER WELCOME TABLE
**Baioni Conference Center, James W. Broom Hall**
Delta State University // May 6, 2017 // 5:00pm

7TH NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE
**Holiday Inn**
Meridian, MS // June 19 - 21, 2017
External Advisory Committee

The Honorable William Winter, Chair
Jones & Walker Law Firm

Iyve Allen
Foundation for the Mid-South

William Bell
Casey Family Programs Headquarters

John Dittmer
American Historian and Professor Emeritus,
DePauw University

Keith Parker
Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice,
Florida A&M University

Congressman Bennie Thompson
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