



GREAT LEADERS. GREAT SCHOOLS.

MUTED NARRATIVES, THE EQUITY PRACTITIONER PROGRAM

4DL was excited to bring back four incredible panelists for our February Equity Practitioner Program session on Muted Narratives where our EPP Fellows have the opportunity to hear the personal stories of individuals from across the Latin diaspora.



Carlos Beato, who immigrated to the United States when he was just five, is the Co-Director at Next Generation Learning Challenges (NGLC), an organization dedicated to supporting educators who are reimagining public education. Carlos is passionate about transformational design and infusing DEIJ/social justice into his work with the organization.

As a child of a migrant farmworker family in Texas, **Norma Flores Lopez** worked in the fields from the age of 12 until she graduated high school. Having advocated on the grassroots, state and national level for 20 years, she has become a leading spokesperson on issues affecting farmworker children, including poverty, education, and health.



After growing up in the bustling heart of Mexico City, **Bren Spector (Figueroa-Gonzalez)** immigrated to Colorado in 1999 with her family and taught herself English. Now with over nine years of experience in public relations, marketing, and communications, Bren has made it her life's work to be an unwavering advocate for the Latinx community in Colorado, working with organizations in various industries, from nonprofits to government and healthcare.

Samanta Lopez's career in education began in non-traditional spaces such as in urban community centers, teaching English as a second language to the community. Samanta has since served as the director of a grant-based mentoring program for at-risk youth, as a Delaware Teacher Institute Fellow, and as a charter school principal and has co-authored articles on dialogic pedagogy and idea-dying in the classroom.



APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR THE 8TH COHORT OF LFD

4th-Dimension Leaders is currently accepting applications for the 8th cohort of our Lead for Delaware principal/assistant principal certification program which begins August 2023.

- Attend our LFD Virtual Information Session on Thursday, March 30 at 6pm to learn more about the program and our application and selection process. Register here.
- **Apply by April 28.** Candidates will be notified by July 15.
- Meet with us one-on-one to share more about you and your goals. Email 4DL's program director at lisa@4thdimensionleaders.org, and we'll find some time to chat!



Lead **F**orward.



DO MORE 24

We are thrilled to share that we'll be participating in a monumental statewide campaign this March 2nd-3rd, Do More 24.

With fewer foundations, smaller grants and formerly localized investments now leaving the state, the impact of individuals like you is more important than ever in ensuring school level change, and continuing the work of 4th-Dimension Leaders.

For 24 hours from 6pm March 2nd through 6pm March 3rd, we're asking you to do more with us. Please give to Do More 24 Delaware.



Together, we can DO MORE!
Do More 24 Delaware is March 2nd-3rd, 2023!

A NOTE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANGELA PERRY

Beware of the binary. It's not lost on me that President's Day is a huge holiday where product sales abound and mainstays of the American economy across sectors shut down to honor those who have led the government of these United States. However, February 21st, the day after President's Day, is the anniversary of the assassination of the honorable Malcolm X, taken down at just 39 years old. Though mounds of evidence point to the government's involvement in his assassination as he led not just Black people, but the broader public into an understanding of the struggle for human rights the world over, the simultaneous celebration of government heads and perpetual castigation of an individual who challenged that very government itself is too obvious to ignore.

Because our education system is an institution rooted in policies and practices designed to exclude, there is a learned tendency to contrast Malcolm X's work with the work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was also assassinated at the age of 39. That their collective demises aren't discussed as scarily synonymous, but that their activism is pitched as in opposition to each other, isn't ironic, it's intentional. Though irresponsible, it is strategic the practice of denigrating Malcolm X as a rogue militant who raged against the machine and Dr. King the kind, non-violent activist with the "right" approach to change. Were either of these remarkable men still here, they would both be unsatisfied - to say the least - with the status of things as they remain.

As we wrap another Black History Month, (expanded from the "Negro History Week" Carter G. Woodson spearheaded for years), beware of the binary. Binary messages are all around us, in an attempt to make easy and quick the notion of learning, especially in the age of soundbites, dilapidated readership, and sought-after scholarship. We need an educated electorate to bring about the kind of nation we can feel excited to exist in; if you or those around you are worried about what kids are learning, I'd urge you and them to shift concern toward what they're **not** learning; for the present is only the past cloaked in amnesia.