

Belonging Now: New Insights from Research and Practice!

For those of you who joined us live, I appreciate your engagement throughout the event and hope that you left with new insights that speak to students' experience of being seen, heard, and connected in their education, particularly as we head into an unprecedented new academic year.

For those of you who were not able to attend or those who would like to share presenters' remarks with your network, [the recording of the research presentation and panel discussion portions of the event is available on YouTube.](#)

I am grateful to have been able to learn about the presenters' powerful work, and their vision for the work that still needs to be done. During the closing activity, attendees surfaced specific connections between the conversation and their individual roles in education philanthropy, policy, and practice, and reflected on how they can center student belonging more deeply in their work. Themes from these reflections included:

- Acknowledging the shortcomings of traditional measures in education; belonging should be considered a priority student outcome and measurement of the conditions necessary for belonging should happen in partnership with students, families, and communities
- Noticing the difference between being welcomed and being respected as one's full, authentic self in a learning environment
- Connecting the research and examples provided in the presentation with concrete practices for positioning students as co-creators, engaging families and communities, and providing culturally-relevant education
- Building coalitions within philanthropy and between philanthropy, research, policy, and local and national education groups to center equity and belonging in education
- Examining how the philanthropy sector is biased in favor of current power structures and how that bias can skew the sector's analysis of root causes and potential solutions

In addition to the [resources available on the event page](#), I encourage you to check out the following materials related to the event themes:

- [Black and Belonging at School: A Case for Interpersonal, Instructional, and Institutional Opportunity Structures](#), a research article by Dr. DeLeon Gray, Dr. Elan Hope, and Dr. Jamaal Matthews
- [We Are Crew](#), a new book from EL Education about their teamwork approach to school culture
- Kings in the Making, an [album](#) and [short documentary](#) by Kingmakers of Oakland
- [Online courses](#) and [equity audit](#) from Beloved Community
- [Resources](#) from Equal Opportunity Schools
- [Is My School Racist?](#), an article from Teaching Tolerance about how to address racism in educational institutions
- [The Alaska Native Teacher Upending the Legacy of Colonial Education](#), an article from *The Atlantic* about Josephine Tatauq Bourdon, a teacher who re-integrated Inupiaq history and culture in Nome public schools
- [Leveraging Mindset Science to Design Educational Environments that Nurture People's Natural Drive to Learn](#), a research synthesis by Mindset Scholars Network
- [What We Know About Purpose & Relevance from Scientific Research](#), a research synthesis by Mindset Scholars Network

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I or Mindset Scholars Network can help facilitate additional follow-up from the event. I would also value any feedback you have about the briefing and any ideas you have for topics MSN might address in future events and resources. I look forward to staying in touch as we collectively advance this work in service of students and educators.

Warmly,

Kaleen Healey, Director of Strategic Outreach & Partnerships

Mindset Scholars Network

www.mindscholarsnetwork.org

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