

# RIDER EQUITY BUZZ

THE EQUITY OFFICE NEWSLETTER

Mar 2021



## ELLA FLAGG YOUNG: EDUCATION TRAIL-BLAZER

Ella Flagg Young, who lived between 1845-1918, became the first woman appointed to serve as the assistant superintendent of schools in Chicago in 1887, and in doing so became the first woman to achieve that administrative status in a major American school system. Mrs. Young graduated from the Chicago Normal School in 1862 and taught primary school before becoming principal of the new practice school of the Chicago Normal School between 1865–1871.

In 1895 Mrs. Young began studying part-time under John Dewey at the University of Chicago, and upon her resignation as assistant superintendent in 1899, she was appointed associate professor of pedagogy at the University of Chicago. Improvement in teacher training, recognition of teaching as a profession, and broadening of teacher responsibilities were the major policy goals of Young's office. She also included vocational and physical training in school curricula. In 1910, aided by Margaret Haley, Young was elected the first woman president of the National Education Association.



Photo Credit: Britanica.com

## THE EQUITY CORNER

Privilege and bias intersect to influence ones perspective. Frequently privilege is treated as some ill-desired attribute that is used to demonize or stigmatize one group of individuals by another group. I challenge people to avoid that false narrative and take a more detailed analysis of the social construct where privilege exists.

It must be understood that privilege is real and there are many different forms of privilege from racial privilege to religious privilege. Privilege generally accompanies the norms and behaviors of a dominant culture vs subcultures within the same social system. It must also be understood that privilege is a benefit for those that receive it, and it can exist without a desire for its services.

I frequently hear variations of "I worked hard for what I have– nobody gave me anything" as a retort to racial privilege dialog, but racial privilege doesn't mean its recipients don't work or aren't deserving, but it does demonstrate that otherwise like individuals are not afforded the same opportunities based on their race. The fine details speak to the issue!

We have to understand how privilege works to better identify the barriers that some face and to provide more equitable opportunities throughout society. The action-step involved with privilege should be "distribution."

### In This Issue

- Ella Flagg Young
- The Equity Corner
- Malala Yousafzai
- Women's History Month
- Justice Sonia Sotomayor
- Vice President Kamala Harris
- Looking Ahead

## ON THE FRONT LINE FOR EDUCATION



Photo Credit: TheGuardian.com

Malala Yousafzai loved school. The daughter of a teacher who ran a girls' school in Pakistan, Yousafzai learned at an early age the critical importance of girls' access to education. So when the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley and banned girls from going to school, Yousafzai spoke out on behalf of girls and their right to learn.

Unfortunately, Yousafzai's education advocacy put her in the Taliban's crosshairs, and in 2012, a gunman working for the Taliban shot Yousafzai as she was on her way to school. Yousafzai was only 15 years old.

But she survived. And in 2013, she and her dad founded the Malala Fund to advocate for every girl's right to an education.

In addition to being a published author, Yousafzai is the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Yousafzai demonstrates that leadership has no age requirement! [Learn More](#)



Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Week." Throughout the next five years, Congress continued to pass joint resolutions designating a week in March as "Women's History Week." In 1987 after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month." Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1995, presidents have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month." [Learn More](#)

## CR's Women Making a Difference

As we focus on the significant contributions of women during Women's History Month, it should not go un-noticed that we have amazing women, top to bottom, throughout the District's ranks. These women provide examples for all of our students and staff.

"It wasn't that long ago that supervisory positions in our district were mostly run by men. We should recognize the significant contributions of the women who are working here in our district. Currently we have the following women in leadership/administrative roles:

Chrissy Bevenour; Kerri Carr; Brook Castillo; Kim Corbeil; Dr. Jess Corbett; Dr. Joyce Denman\*, Darisa Everett, Dr. Kris Failing; Tara Faircloth; Katie Fitzgerald; Dr. Susan Frampton; Brook Fuchs; Tracey Gross; Kristin Hannah; Ashley Holmes; Nicole Jones; Kim Judy; Dr. Sherry Kijowski; Julie Lavender; Jessica Marelli; Jen Martin; Ashley Matticks; Amanda Mazzola; Monica McCurry; Jean Miclette; Barb Miklus; Jean O'Connell; Megan Polichetti; Dr. Tina Sanders-Loftus; Michelle Sell; Dr. Tamara Toles-Torain; and Michele Waite" - Jason Payne, Principal Maj. George S. Welch Elementary School

*\*Caesar Rodney School Board Member*

# Justice Sotomayor



Photo Credit: Stonybrook.edu

On August 8, 2009 the Honorable Sonia Maria Sotomayor made history when she became the first Hispanic and Latina member of the United State Supreme Court. Justice Sotomayor was born in The Bronx, New York City, to Puerto Rican-born parents. She earned a B.A. from Princeton University, and a J.D. from Yale Law School where she served as an editor of the Yale Law Journal.

According to the Federal Justice Center, Justice Sotomayor also served on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. [Learn More](#)



Photo Credit: Saul Loeb/Pool via REUTERS

## CAUTION: BROKEN GLASS!

Kamala D. Harris is Vice President of the United States of America. Kamala is a Black woman, and she's also a woman of South Asian descent. Kamala was the first woman of color to serve as the district attorney for San Francisco and later the state of California. This string of firsts would be amazing for anyone, but let's look at them through the lens of being a first-generation American as both of her parents were immigrants. When you combine the fore-stated items with the fact that Kamala was raised in a single-parent home in an urban setting it is not hard to see why Vice President Harris is an inspiration to legions of young girls and women alike.

There are so many different facets of her life that individuals can identify with. Known for a swap of heels in favor of converse sneakers in casual settings there were young girls and women all across the nation donning "Chucks and Peralas" to mark the occasion of the inauguration of the United State's first woman elected to the second highest post in the land. It has been said that representation is one of the greatest motivators. Vice President Harris provides an example of shattering glass ceilings. This is something that little girls and women alike can be encouraged by. That crunching sound you hear are the feet of girls and women worldwide walking comfortably in their own skin. It is the sound of those same girls and women walking through the remnants of shattered glass ceilings. [Learn More](#).



Photo Credit: Bob McParland/High School District 218—Chicago Tribune



# LOOKING AHEAD

**April 1st-30th:** Diversity Month; Arab-American Heritage Month; Tartan (Scottish-American) Heritage Month

**April 2nd:** World Autism Awareness Day. [Learn more](#)

**April 8-16:** Passover [Learn more](#)

**April 12:** Easter [Learn more](#)

**April 20:** Festival of Ridvan [Learn more](#)

**April 20-21:** Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) [Learn more](#)

**April 22:** Earth Day [Learn more](#)

## Contact Us

Give me a call for more information about equity and diversity items and ideas.

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Caesar Rodney Education Association - Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee presents:

## The CREA EMAC Future Educators of Color Scholarship

Scan me to buy ↓



### SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

100% of the proceeds from t-shirt sales will go into a scholarship fund available to Caesar Rodney High School's future educators of color. Stand with the CREA EMAC in furthering the career of a future educator and showing support for empowering the voices of ethnic minorities in our community. Qualified applicants are seniors of color at CRHS, accepted into a college or university, with plans to pursue a career in education.

Link to order: [CLICK HERE](#)

T-SHIRTS ARE ON SALE FOR **\$20**

The sale is from **February 16, 2021** to **March 12, 2021**

Scholarship application is open from: **March 15, 2021** to **April 12, 2021**

