

# WOMEN IMPACTING EDUCATION



MARCH 30, 2021 4:00 PM EST | [REGISTER FOR EVENT HERE](#)

The Nystrand Center of Excellence in Education supports and facilitates education reform through its outstanding special programs and initiatives. Strong community partnerships are the heart of our success and serve as an inspiration for those who work so diligently to provide a better education for our children. It is our mission to continue with transformation through collaboration by leading the discussion on education reform, policy research, and practice.



Moderator:  
Dr. Geneva Stark  
*Director of the Nystrand  
Center of Excellence in  
Education*

## Women's History Month

Join us as we celebrate these female pioneers of education. We will discuss their successes and challenges on their journey to where they are today. These women are true leaders and serve as an inspiration for all those who think it cannot be done. Led by the inimitable Dr. Stark, the current director of the Nystrand Center for Excellence in Education, this event will motivate and excite everyone!

Mrs. Michelle Dillard grew up in Hopkinsville, Ky with three sons and her husband Donald Dillard. She went to Murray State University and Western Kentucky University. Mrs. Dillard has served as a principal at Seneca High School, Area Assistant Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Middle Schools and now Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instructions in JCPS. All of her work has been in urban school districts. She believes Failure Is Not an Option, No excuses, Just Results when it comes to educating our scholars. She is an advocate for women being able to reach their fullest potential knowing they have lots of obstacles put in their way by society. She believes in being a voice to advocate for equality for all because if you don't stand up for something, then you fall for anything. Mrs. Dillard was recognized by Advanced Ed, during her leadership audit, as a principal who has created a positive culture that fosters student success; one who has developed and implemented systems and processes to promote student achievement; and one who has a formative process for collecting and analyzing data to make informed decisions.

Dr. Rita Greer is a native of Louisville, Ky and a graduate of Central High School and the University of Louisville, from which she received three degrees including a Doctorate of Education. A professional educator for nearly fifty years, Dr. Greer divided her time between the K-12 education arena and university teaching. Among her various accomplishments, Dr. Greer is credited with the development and implementation of several teacher recruitment and training initiatives for supporting teacher certification and providing quality teachers for JCPS, including the Multicultural Teacher Recruitment Program (MTRP). Dr. Greer currently serves on several boards, including the College of Education and Human Development Advisory Board. She and her high school sweetheart of more than fifty-two years have one daughter who is a public-school educator and two grandchildren.



Mrs.  
Michelle  
Dillard



Dr. Rita  
Greer



**Dr. Bonnie Marshall**

Bonnie Nelson Marshall grew up in Louisville, Kentucky and is a product of the Louisville Public Schools. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Knoxville College in Knoxville, Tennessee, her master's degree in urban education from Indiana University, and her doctorate in educational leadership with an emphasis in supervision from the University of Louisville. Dr. Marshall began her professional career as an educator as an elementary teacher and left the classroom to serve as the coordinator of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Project (MTRP) for the Jefferson County Public Schools and the University of Louisville. After leaving the MTRP, she became the coordinator of Education Initiatives for Jefferson County Public Schools. This position provided her with opportunities to work with local, state, and national educational organizations on issues related to minority educator shortages, present at educational conferences throughout the United States, participate in teacher preparation program assessments and accreditations, design teacher preparation programs, and write programs designed to prepare individuals from minority backgrounds for leadership roles and teachers, counselors, principals, and superintendents.



**Dr. Meghan Pifer**

Meghan J. Pifer is an Associate Professor of Higher Education Administration at the University of Louisville. She is the Co-Principal Investigator and Associate Director of the U. S. Department of the Army's Master Educator Course. She was also the Co-Principal Investigator and Co-Director of the 2020 MEC Fellowship Program. Dr. Pifer holds a PhD in Higher Education from Penn State University and an EdM in Higher Education Administration from Boston University. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to joining the University of Louisville, Dr. Pifer served as an instructor at the Smeal College of Business at Penn State, and held faculty positions at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania and Widener University.



**Dr. Stefanie Wooten-Burnett**

Stefanie Wooten-Burnett is a Clinical Assistant Professor and the Director of Multiple Pathways for Teacher Certification in the Department of Elementary, Middle, & Secondary Education at the University of Louisville. She directs the Alternative Certification program and the newly developed Louisville Teacher Residency Program, the first residency program in the state designed to produce a diverse cadre of quality teachers. Dr. Wooten-Burnett holds a Ph.D in Curriculum & Instruction for the University of Louisville and an Ed.S. in School Administration from Indiana State University. Prior to her current position at the University of Louisville, she taught in the public school system in Oldham County (KY) and Greater Clark County School (IN).



**Ms. Letisha Young**

Letisha Young shares that she is truly honored that she was called to be an educator. She has a heart and passion to see students succeed. Her desire is for each student to be provided a high-quality education in a safe and nurturing environment. Her goal is to equip students with the tools necessary to lead a successful life. Her educational journey was through the Jefferson County Public School System and she is a proud graduate of DuPont Manual High School. She then went right across the street to obtain her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from the University of Louisville. She completed my masters and administration certification at Indiana Southeast. She is currently attending Spalding University to obtain her doctorate in Educational Leadership. She is the proud principal of Foster Academy. Her love for Foster Academy runs deep as it has been her home for the last 24 years. In August 1997, at the start of her career, she was hired as Foster's self-contained EBD Special Education teacher, moving on to then teach second and third grade. She has served as Foster's assistant principal position for five years and was promoted to principal in February 2017.