

17<sup>th</sup> SUMMER INSTITUTE

**A BLACK EDUCATION NETWORK  
(ABEN)  
and  
STANFORD UNIVERSITY  
Graduate School of Education  
announce:**



**Pedagogies & Practices  
for  
Successfully Reaching  
African American Students**

Virtually:  
June 29 - 30, 2022





# Welcome to the 17th Summer Institute

Wednesday & Thursday,  
June 29 – 30, 2022  
8:30 a.m. PST – 1:00 p.m. PST

## DAY 1: Wednesday, June 29

8:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

**Welcome, Libation, and  
Black Education Framing  
with distinguished guest educator,  
Dr. Joyce E. King**

9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

**Keynote Address by Dr. Geneva Gay**

10 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

— BREAK —

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

**Dr. Shango Blake and Simone A. Nicholas**  
(*Black Ed-fluencers United / BE-U, NYC*)

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

— BREAK —

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**Nicole Steward, MSW, RYT**

12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

**Breakout Groups**

12:45 p.m. – 1 p.m.

**Book Giveaways & Closing**

## DAY 2: Thursday, June 30

8:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

**Welcome, Libation, and  
Black Education Framing  
with distinguished guest educator,  
Dr. Iva E. Carruthers**

9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

**Keynote Address by Dr. Jarvis Givens**

10 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

— BREAK —

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

**Glenn Singleton**

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

— BREAK —

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**NDABA** (*Respondents to all Speakers*)

12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

**Breakout Groups**

12:45 p.m. – 1 p.m.

**Book Giveaways, Closing & Farewell**

The  
**NDABA**  
is a  
gathering  
where  
conversation  
happens  
around a  
specific  
topic.






## Meet Our Esteemed Guest Educators



### DR. JOYCE E. KING

Dr. King is the Benjamin E. Mays Endowed Chair for Urban Teaching, Learning and Leadership at Georgia State University where she is also a professor of educational policy studies in the College of Education. She is an affiliated faculty member in Africana Studies, the Women's and Gender Studies Institute, and the Urban Studies Institute. She has held various senior administrative posts in higher education including, provost, Spelman College; associate provost, Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York; and associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs and Diversity Programs at the University of New Orleans. She was director of Teacher Education at Santa Clara University for twelve years and she served as the first head of the Department of Ethnic Studies at Mills College.



Dr. King received a Ph.D. in the Social Foundations of Education and a BA degree in Sociology at Stanford University. While at Stanford, Dr. King received the coveted Dinkelspiel Award for community service and was recently honored with the Black Community Services Center's Multicultural Alumni Hall of Fame Award.

Dr. King is a dynamic leader and visionary teacher / scholar with a wealth of academic and administrative experience. As a leading scholar in the field, Dr. King does ground-breaking research on “dysconscious racism,” a term she originated that has informed research in teacher education in both the US and abroad. Dr. King served as the president in 2014-15, of the prestigious American Educational Research Association (AERA), which is the national interdisciplinary research association for approximately 25,000 scholars who undertake research in education. She also chaired the AERA Commission on Research in Black Education (CORIBE) and became editor of the resulting volume, *Black Education: A Transformative Research and Action Agenda for the New Century*, published in 2005 for AERA by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. This volume examined the knowledge base, presented findings, and offered new directions for research and practice in Black education and across diverse communities. In addition to *Black Education*, Dr. King edited *Preparing Teachers for Cultural Diversity and Teaching Diverse Populations: Formulating a Knowledge Base*, and co-authored *Black Mothers to Sons: Juxtaposing African American Literature with Social Practice* (with C.A. Mitchell). The most recent of her 9 books are *Heritage Knowledge in the Curriculum: Retrieving an African Episteme* (with E. Swartz) and *We Be Lovin' Black Children: Learning to Be Literate about the African Diaspora* (with G. Boutte, G. Jackson & L.J. King, co-editors). Her 70-plus publications appear in the *Harvard Educational Review*, *the Journal of Negro Education*, *Journal of Black Studies*, *Educational Researcher*, *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, *the Journal of African American History*, and the *International Journal of African Renaissance Studies*.

Dr. King's vast accomplishments reflect an emphasis on innovative interdisciplinary scholarship, culturally connected teaching, and learning, and transformative leadership for change in higher education, often in creative partnership with communities. She is a member of the board of directors for the Institute for Food and Development Policy (FoodFirst.org), and the National African American Reparations Commission. In addition to being a long-time thought-partner to ABEN's founder, Debra Watkins, Dr. King serves as a vital member of the organization's Leadership Team.



## DR. IVA E. CARRUTHERS

Dr. Iva E. Carruthers is General Secretary of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference (SDPC), an interdenominational organization within the African American faith tradition focused on justice and equity issues. SDPC is both a 501c3 and UN Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). As founding CEO and a trustee, she has steered SDPC as an influential and esteemed network of faith based advocates and activists, clergy and lay. Former director of the Black Theology Project, Dr. Carruthers has a long history of teaching, engagement in community development initiatives and social justice ministry, fostering interdenominational and interfaith dialogue and leading study tours for the university and church throughout in the United States, Caribbean, South America and Africa.

Dr. Carruthers is Professor Emeritus and former Chairperson of the Sociology Department at Northeastern Illinois University and was founding President of Nexus Unlimited, an information and educational technology firm. She was appointed to the White House Advisory Council on the internet, “National Information Infrastructure”, Mega Project and the educational software she developed was awarded a Computer World Smithsonian Award. She is also founder of Lois House, an urban retreat center, Chicago, Illinois.



She is a frequent guest speaker before various national and international forums, including U.N. Civil Society Forums. She has served as a consultant and delegate to many organizations in the public and private sectors. She currently serves as a Life Time Trustee for the Chicago Theological Seminary and trustee for The Kwame Nkrumah Academy, Chicago; American Baptist College, Nashville; Shared Interest, New York; Bread for the World, Washington, DC. She is a member of the National African American Reparations Commission and is working on initiatives related to the U.N. Decade of People of African Descent. Dr. Carruthers is co-editor of *Blow the Trumpet in Zion: Global Vision and Action for the 21st Century Black Church* and has authored and edited a number of articles and publications, in the areas of sociology, technology and instructional technology. Her many study guides on African American & African history were developed as a co-producer of a multi-year educational television program. She was a delegate to the 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and her publication, *The Church and Reparations*, was distributed by her denomination, United Church of Christ, in several languages.

She received the B.A. degree from the University of Illinois; the M.A. and the Ph.D. in Sociology from North-western University; a Master in Theological Studies degree from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Humane Letters, Meadville Lombard Theological School. Awards and postdoctoral fellowships received include Northwestern University Center for Urban Affairs, The Russell Sage Foundation, University of Chicago, Adlai Stevenson Institute for International Affairs and The National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Iva Carruthers is the recipient of numerous awards including the 1999 Life Achievement Award by Northeastern Illinois University and “Year 2000 Woman Entrepreneur of the Year” award, given by the National Foundation of Women Legislators and the SBA. She was inducted into the National History Makers; was a recipient of Ebony Magazine’s year 2001 Outstanding Mother Award for Mentoring; and, noted as a Chicago area social justice pioneer in the Women Alive! A Legacy of Social Justice Exhibit. Dr. Carruthers is a long-time thought partner of ABEN’s founder, Debra Watkins and serves as an essential member of the organization’s Leadership Team.



# Meet Our Distinguished Keynote Speakers



DAY 1 KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY

## DR. GENEVA GAY

Geneva Gay is Professor Emeritus of Education at the University of Washington-Seattle where she taught multicultural education and general curriculum theory. She is the recipient of a Distinguished Scholar Award, presented by the Committee on the Role and Status of Minorities in Educational Research and Development of the American Educational Research Association; the first Multicultural Educator Award presented by the National Association of Multicultural Education; the 2004 W. E. B. Du Bois Distinguished Lecturer Award presented by the Special Interest Group on Research Focus on Black Education of the American Educational Research Association; the 2006 Mary Anne Raywid Award for Distinguished Scholarship in the Field of Education, presented by the Society of Professors of Education; the 2021 Lifetime Scholarship Award presented by the Multicultural/Multiethnic Education Special Interest Group (SIG) of AERA; and the 2021 Carter G. Woodson Medallion for scholarship benefiting African Americans presented by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Dr. Gay is nationally and internationally known for her scholarship in multicultural education, particularly as it relates to curriculum design, staff development, classroom instruction, and intersections of culture, race, ethnicity, teaching, and learning.

Her writings include numerous articles and book chapters; the co-editorship of *Expressively Black: The Cultural Basis of Ethnic Identity* (Praeger, 1987); author of *At the Essence of Learning: Multicultural Education* (Kappa Delta Pi, 1994), and *Culturally Responsive Teaching: Theory, Practice, & Research* (Teachers College Press, 2000; 2nd edition, 2010; 3rd edition, 2018); and editor of *Becoming Multicultural Educators: Personal Journey Toward Professional Agency* (Jossey-Bass, 2003).

The first edition of *Culturally Responsive Teaching* received the 2001 Outstanding Writing Award from the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE). She also is a member of the authorship team of the Scott Foresman Elementary Social Studies Series. International consultations and conference presentations on Multicultural Education, Culturally Responsive Teaching, and Curriculum have taken her to Canada, Brazil, Taiwan, Finland, Japan, England, Scotland, Australia, Benin, Italy, New Zealand, South Korea, Botswana, South Africa, and China.



“Published in 1994,  
***At the Essence  
of Learning:  
Multicultural  
Education***

explores the premise  
that good teaching  
and multicultural  
teaching are  
indistinguishable.

In her book,  
Dr. Gay notes:  
‘the child is the  
meaning-maker  
and the teacher’s  
responsibility is to build  
structures and create  
strategies that help all  
children gather meaning  
from their surroundings.’ ”

- UW College of Education





## DAY 2 KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY

### DR. JARVIS GIVENS

Jarvis R. Givens is an assistant professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Faculty Affiliate in the department of African & African American Studies at Harvard University. He specializes in the history of education, African American history, and theories of race and power in education. His first book, *Fugitive Pedagogy: Carter G. Woodson and the Art of Black Teaching*, which won the 2022 ASALH Book Prize, was published in 2021 by Harvard University Press.

This work journeys through the subversive history of African American education from slavery through the Jim Crow era, while analyzing the political and intellectual work of Black teachers. The famed educator and groundbreaking historian Carter G. Woodson is the central character in this story. Professor Givens also co-edited *We Dare Say Love: Supporting Achievement in the Educational Life of Black Boys*,

published by Columbia's Teachers College Press in 2018. His articles have appeared in academic journals and various public outlets, such as the *American Education Research Journal*, *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics Culture and Society*, *Harvard Educational Review*, *Black Perspectives*, *Anthropology & Education Quarterly*, *Education Weekly*, and more.

Professor Givens is currently building The Black Teacher Archive, an online portal which will house digitized records documenting the more than one-hundred-year history of "Colored Teacher Associations."

He regularly engages educators, organizations, and communities—through keynote addresses and seminars—around the importance of Black educational history for our contemporary moment and the critical importance of African American teachers.

As a 2020-2021 fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Professor Givens is completing his second book, a work of creative nonfiction, entitled *School Clothes: A Collective Memoir of Black Student Witness*, to be published by Beacon Press. He also began research for his third book, tentatively titled *The American School in Red, White, and Black*. This latter work offers a new history of early US education that rigorously accounts for the Native American and African American presence in the political economic development of schooling through the 19th century. Professor Givens has also edited and re-introduced two African American classics, to be released in 2022: *Carter G. Woodson's (1933) The Mis-Education of the Negro*, to be published by Penguin Classics, and *Booker T. Washington's (1901) Up from Slavery*, to be published by W.W. Norton & Company.

His research has been supported by fellowships and grants from the Ford Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, as well as the William F. Milton Fund. Professor Givens earned his PhD in African American Studies from the University of California, Berkeley. He is a native of Compton, California and currently resides in Roxbury, Massachusetts.



Dr. Jarvis Givens  
is a proud  
life member  
and  
former executive  
council member  
of the  
Association  
for the  
Study of  
African American  
Life and History.





# Meet Our Summer Institute Presenters:



## DR. SHANGO A. BLAKE

Nationally known as the Hip Hop Principal, Dr. Shango Blake, CEO of TRU SK Consultants, LLC is a much sought after speaker about issues in urban education; from pioneering unique collaborations between students, teachers, parents, and the community towards creating and sustaining a vibrant academic atmosphere, to his successful tenure as a New York City Principal, he has proven to be a true renaissance educator. As a Principal, Dr. Blake saw a profound need to institute drastic and creative changes to improve his school's failing health. Dr. Blake initiated a bold and daring self-created project to integrate a conceptualized Hip-Hop based educational program. This program resulted in:

- A new curriculum model that included teacher development, parent involvement, and school/community collaboration.
- His school went from one of the lowest-performing schools in the district to number one in reading and math.

Dr. Blake's core belief and value is that the best and brightest of America's students can be found in our inner cities. However, they often have to overcome social barriers that students in more affluent communities do not. This is why his work is grounded in supporting urban school districts leaders and school principals.

Dr. Blake has also done research and is an expert on Hip Hop and Education. The name of his study is: Transformational Leadership: Transmitting an Educational Reform Agenda in a Low-Performing Urban Middle School Using Innovative Strategies, such as Hip-Hop and High-Interest Curriculum! For his work in urban educational reform, the Mayor of Yonkers, the City Council of Yonkers, and the Westchester County Legislators in New York State honored Dr. Blake. Dr. Blake was recently honored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority with the Innovative Educator Award. As Chair of the Education and Youth Committee of the Million Man March Coordinating Council of Queens, Dr. Shango Blake has been responsible for:

- The exposure and placement of hundreds of High School students to Historically Black College and Universities;
- Resolving violent conflict between rival gang members; and
- Organizing Youth Empowerment Days.

Dr. Blake is president of NYC based, The Black Edfluencers United (Be-U). The organization's mission is to influence and develop the capacity of Black educators and raise awareness about the systemic challenges within education. BE-U is committed to promoting a "call to action" that ensures equity and transparency in all schools, and to developing a system of networking and mentorship in support of Black educators. ABEN and BE-U have forged a powerful partnership. Dr. Blake's message is that "We are a collective group of community minded people who are deeply concerned about systemic racism and dis-proportionality in education. We seek to uplift the plight and value Black educators who are committed to effectively educate Black children. Therefore, our vision is to serve Black educators, influence others and impact Black children and their families. The time is NOW for us to unite around an agenda that holds everyone accountable for the effective education of Black children. Join The Be-U Movement. Embrace Our Motto. Be Bold. Be Brave and most importantly, Be-U."



Dr. Shango Blake has been featured on:

- *Oprah Winfrey*
- *People Magazine*
- *98.7 Kiss FM Radio*
- *The Joey Reynolds Show*
- *WABC: Channel 7 News*
- *WCBS: Channel 2*
- *Vibe Magazine*
- *The Tribeca Film Festival, and*
- *His work has been used as a national model by cable network, HBO.*





## PRINCIPAL SIMONE A. NICHOLAS

A native of Brooklyn, NY and the granddaughter of Caribbean immigrants from Guyana, St. Vincent, and Grenada, West Indies, Simone A. Nicholas was raised in a village where the core values of education, social action and service to the community were grounded.

Principal Nicholas received her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and African American Studies at Dartmouth College, two Master's Degrees in Education, and Administration /Supervision from C.U.N.Y. Brooklyn College. In 2023, Principal Nicholas will receive her Educational Doctorate from Manhattanville College. Her teaching career began in 1996 at a Middle School in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn and she has since held various school and central-based roles within the NYC Department of Education. As Principal of The School by the Sea (PS/MS 43), she is both the first woman, and first African American to lead this amazing public school in Far Rockaway, Queens, NY.

As a Social Justice & Equity Champion for Children, Principal Nicholas has expanded instructional rigor, affected school climate, doubled student proficiency scores and removed the school from NY State's failing school list to place the school back in Good Standing. Continuing the mission to foster a culture of excellence, equity, and determined to provide access at all levels for her children, families and community, Principal Nicholas ensures students participate in all expense paid HBCU tours and offers exemplary Restorative Justice and STEAM extra-curricular programs. Her school is the recipient of multiple local, state and federal grants, and she has increased community engagement through workshops to promote instructional and social-emotional strategies that impact student success. They have expanded adult learning programs (financial literacy awareness and GED classes), and access to various community agencies to provide jobs with training, and has worked with advocates and community-based groups to ensure the school is a flagship food and health hub for the community.

With over 35 years of commitment to public service and leadership, Principal Nicholas is a Legacy Life member and President of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., Long Island Cross County Section and a member of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Long Island Chapter. Principal Nicholas also serves as a Dartmouth College Ambassador Interviewer who advocates for diversity and equity practices to ensure admissions for students of African descent remains a priority. Lastly, Principal Nicholas is a founding member of "Black Ed-fluencers United (BE-U)" and "The Off School Grounds (OSG)" educational coalitions created to provide a platform for leaders to network and share best practices for growth and development, while advocating for the success and equity in education for underserved communities with a focus on Black and Brown children and families.

ABEN adopted The School By The Sea and the following testimonials are from Principal Nicholas and her staff:

*"I cannot thank Mama Debra Watkins and the entire ABEN family enough and remain excited about the priceless gifts our school continues to receive because of their generosity of spirit. As we continue to forge ahead to educate our children, knowing that organizations such as ABEN care, makes all of the difference. Asante Sana (Thank You). — Principal Simone Nicholas*

*"In the spirit of gratitude, we are deeply grateful to ABEN for the experience of virtually traveling to Ghana during the pandemic in July 2020 and again in 2021. ABEN generously provided over 20 scholarships to students and their chaperones to travel virtually to learn about the people, places and history of Ghana. Thank you ABEN for always lifting up the education of Black children." — Community & Parent Outreach Coordinator, Victoria Juste*

*"We are truly thrilled to have ABEN's donation of 35 books on African History. We have used this book with our students. In a world where our Black and Brown indigenous children are exposed to stereotypes and the erasing of their history, Angel Brown-Harriott's book and workbook on Kemit and African history, have allowed us to have deep conversations with our students and open their minds to the richness of their history. Bless you ABEN for your kind generosity. — Merle Petal, History Teacher*



Simone A. Nicholas  
is a  
Queens County  
delegate serving  
on the  
Executive Board  
of the Black Caucus  
for the Council  
of Supervisors &  
Administrators  
(CSA))

The CSA's  
Black Caucus  
provides  
opportunities  
for purposeful  
networking,  
sharpening  
members and  
creating a  
pipeline for  
Black Educators  
Leaders.





## NICOLE STEWARD, MSW, RYT

Nicole Steward is a social worker (MSW), homeless/foster youth liaison, former CASA and foster parent. She is also a certified yoga instructor, and trauma-informed sound healer with a focus on public education, and social justice.

She has more than two decades of social work practice in non-profits and accountability work in K-12 education. Given her vast experiences working in foster youth services, rape crisis, juvenile justice, and in education as a behavior intervention specialist, Ms. Steward recognized the critical need for a trauma-informed lens in the worlds of social services and education. Therein lies the passion for her work— to better help us compassionately acknowledge, understand, and thus, appropriately respond to the deep needs of those we serve in

our capacity as career professionals within the often overlapping fields of social work and education.

Nicole Steward also believes self-care is a radical tendency we must adopt if we are to sustain ourselves as service providers, educators, and human beings. In addition to her day job, Ms. Steward teaches yoga, mindfulness, and offers trauma-informed self-care workshops, retreats and professional development trainings as a consultant. Focusing on providing an understanding of the neurobiology of trauma, her services to schools, social service agencies and non-profit organizations help their staff and other career professionals examine what they bring to their work— and she teaches them to gain practical ways to discharge the toxic stress absorbed as a byproduct of working with traumatized populations.

Ms. Steward has a Master of Social Work (MSW) from the University of Connecticut (UConn), and has certifications in the following specialties:

- 200hr Registered Yoga Teacher
- 100hr UZIT / Deep Healing Yoga
- Mindful Schools K-12 Curriculum
- Y12SR Yoga for 12-Step Recovery
- CASA/Guardian ad litem for Foster Youth
- Trauma-Informed Yoga for Survivors of Sexual Assault

Presently Ms. Steward is working diligently on writing her book, tentatively titled; *Radical Self-Care for Helpers, Healers and Changemakers*, due out for publication next year in 2023.



Nicole Steward has a favorite quote that drives her work forward. It is by the famed Aboriginal activist, Lilla Watson, who said:

“If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”





## GLENN SINGLETON

Glenn Singleton has devoted over thirty years to constructing racial equity worldwide and developing leaders to do the same. Author, thought leader, and strategist, he is the creator of Courageous Conversation® a protocol and framework for sustained, deepened dialogue, and Beyond Diversity™ the curriculum that has taught hundreds of thousands of people how to use it. Glenn is the Founder and President of Courageous Conversation®, an agency that guides leadership development in education, government, corporation, law enforcement, and community organizing. He is the award-winning author of *Courageous Conversations About Race; A Field Guide for Achieving Equity in Schools, Second Edition*; and of *MORE Courageous Conversations About Race*.



Mr. Singleton gave a keynote address at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation's Summit on Race in America.

In it, he gave a thought-provoking overture on race with the suggestion that color blindness is an illusion, and he gave his personal take on what it means to be a person of color in the United States.

Glenn has consulted executives at Wieden + Kennedy (W+K) Advertising, Google, Amazon, Procter & Gamble, the New York City Department of Education, the New Zealand Ministry of Education, the Stavros Niarchos, Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundations. Along with W+K, he received the 2017 Most Valuable Partnership (MVP) Award by AdColor. He is the recipient of the George A. Coleman Excellence in Equity Award by the Connecticut State Education Resource Center. Cited in the June 2018 edition of the *Hollywood Reporter* for his work with 21st Century Fox Animation, most recently, Glenn was awarded the AdWeek/AdColor 2020 Champion Award, and the 2020 National Speech and Debate Association Communicator of the Year Award.

In 1995, Glenn founded the Foundation for A College Education and continues to serve on its Board of Advisors. He is also the founder and Board Chair of the Courageous Conversation® Global Foundation, which develops partnerships to promote racial justice, interracial understanding and human healing worldwide. In 2020, Glenn became a partner with WorkWider, a professional community dedicated to the advancement of equity, diversity and inclusion. In 2022, Glenn founded Glenn Singleton & Associates, a consulting firm that will pioneer the support and training of executive leadership to advance their racial equity agenda throughout their organizations and beyond.

Glenn has trained law enforcement leaders with the U.S. Embassy in Western Australia, and established the Courageous Conversation South Pacific Institute in Auckland, New Zealand. For eight years, he served as an adjunct professor of educational leadership at San Jose State University. Glenn has been a guest lecturer at Harvard University and has instructed faculty, students and administrators at the University of Minnesota, New York University School of Medicine, and the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Stanford University, Glenn Singleton is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and 100 Black Men. He currently resides in Washington, D.C., and Accra, Ghana.







# Meet ABEN's Founder & Executive Director

## DEBRA WATKINS, M.Ed., MS

California native, Debra Watkins is best described as an extraordinary educator, much beloved institution builder, and visionary leader. Having spent 37 years in East Side Union High School District as a teacher, counselor and project manager, Debra was a founding member of the Santa Clara County Alliance of Black Educators (SCCABE), and served the organization as president for seven years. Her 2016 book, *Thoughts Held Hostage: A Black Teacher's Journey of Unlocking Young Minds*, has been well-received in educational circles nationally.

In 2001, Debra founded both the California Alliance of African American Educators (CAAAE), and the Dr. Frank S. Greene Scholars Program (GSP). Named after an African American scientist who helped pave the way for today's computers, the GSP is a long-term, youth development STEM initiative for students of African ancestry. With 100% of its students enrolling in college, 90% graduating in four years with a BS or BA degree, and 60% of those degrees in STEM fields (eight times the national average for Black students), the GSP has garnered the support of companies in Silicon Valley ranging from Google to Texas Instruments to Cisco and Intel. In 2017, the CAAAE's name was changed to A Black Education Network (ABEN) to expand its influence across the country. With some of the most brilliant Black scholars on ABEN's Leadership Team, its board and its Wisdom circle, Debra's vision has led ABEN to create a series of signature programs.

For many years, Debra has worked with author and renowned researcher of ancient Egyptian history, science, philosophy and culture, Anthony Browder, to develop and deliver a host of educational programs. In addition to cultural and STEM programming, ABEN's work also includes the Youth Civic Ambassadors for Justice; socially important learning activities that enhance student voices by encouraging African American political action and progress through allowing students to work with Jegnas (mentors) to create impactful civic projects focused on ameliorating conditions in the Black community. During the pandemic, Debra launched programming through ABEN to address the financial needs of marginalized families, enrich the online education of students, and support educators in making many pivots. With "The Families Fund," ABEN provided families with \$300 Visa gift cards to help mitigate the financial toll caused them by COVID-19. Furthermore, in collaboration with the Sankofa Homeschool Community & Collective, ABEN implemented virtual, day trips around the nation of Ghana to help enrich the lives of 300 students and their families. "And How Are the Children?" was the program title of three webinars focused on connecting direct-service personnel and parents with the research of prominent educators from across the country. This series, reached close to 1,000 people and was co-sponsored by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

In a world centered on using technology, at times at the loss of the human touch, Debra's approach is all about the personalization of the programming. She takes her network, the programs' participants, ABEN's members, and donors to create a healthy village; and bridges the gap between the university (Ivory Tower), direct-service professionals, and the students. In creating ABEN and servicing each aspect of this community, Debra has nurtured conversations between all three populations giving way to multi-generational collaboration, increased understanding, enhanced professional practice, and increased academic achievement. The work Debra leads is espoused in many education journals that the knowledge and skill of teachers and the appropriate learning environments at home and school increase the academic and behavioral outcomes of students. Nearly 6 years ago, she co-founded the Black Students of California United (BSCU) and remains an active board member. She also serves on the national Coordinating Council for the Dignity in Schools Campaign (DSC) and devotes countless hours to helping to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline.

Debra earned a B.A. in English with minors in French and Psychology from Pitzer College in 1976. She then entered Stanford University's Teacher Education Program and earned a Master's degree in Education as well as Life-time Teaching Credentials in English, French and Psychology in 1977. A second Master's degree in Counselor Education was granted in 1996 from San Jose State University.



# Summer Institute 2022 Information

## ABOUT ABEN

The California Alliance of African American Educators (CAAAE) was founded in 2001. In 2012, the CAAAE began incubating A Black Education Network (ABEN) to extend its work nationally by hosting a summit in Chicago the next 2 years, and regional summits in Atlanta, Philadelphia, Detroit and Los Angeles in 2014-2015. In 2017, the CAAAE began the transition of its brand to ABEN. In 2018, it completed the transition, and is presently hosting the 17th Summer Institute in partnership with Stanford University. We've provided professional development and academic and cultural excellence in collaborative student programming to numerous schools across the U.S. We are excited to host a virtual tour to Kenya, East Africa this summer. It is our fourth virtual tour to Africa. We are looking forward to the upcoming ABEN STEM Initiative curriculum launch.

To meet our highly-esteemed board members and Wisdom Circle as well as our Team, please visit our website at [www.aben4ace.org](http://www.aben4ace.org). As in previous years, the Institute sells out quickly. **Register TODAY!**

## INSTITUTE AUDIENCE

Teachers, administrators, parents, professional developers, support providers, school board members, undergraduate and graduate students who work with African American students. To optimize the institute experience, we strongly encourage school districts to send representatives as part of a team.

## COST & REGISTRATION

The Institute runs virtually from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m., June 29th and 30, 2022.

**Registration Deadline is June 22, 2022**

**\$350: 1 Person**

**\$300: Per Person for a Team of 5**

## ONLINE REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

The fastest and easiest way to confirm attendance is online at:

**<https://tinyurl.com/33xn3cna>**

*Alternatively:*

- Download the registration form (last page) and fill one out separately for each team member / participant.
- Send registration forms by postal mail with payment enclosed early. We must receive registration form(s) and payment(s) by **June 22, 2022**.
- No email, fax or phone registrations will be accepted.
- Please make checks payable to: ABEN
- Mail to: **ABEN SUMMER INSTITUTE**  
**P.O. Box 3134**  
**San Jose, California 95156**

*A final schedule with other pertinent information will be emailed upon receipt and processing of payment.*

Should you have  
any questions,  
please call  
Debra Watkins  
at  
408-977-4188  
or email:  
[abenmedia@  
aben4ace.org](mailto:abenmedia@aben4ace.org)

