

from nourish to flourish



Shawn Ginwright, PhD

**President and CEO of Flourish Agenda and author of *The Four Pivots*
*Panelist***

Shawn Ginwright, PhD is one of the nation's leading innovators, provocateurs, and thought leaders on African American youth, youth activism, and youth development. He is Professor of Education in the Africana Studies Department and a Senior Research Associate at San Francisco State University. His research examines the ways in which youth in urban communities navigate through the constraints of poverty and struggle to create equality and justice in their schools and communities. Dr. Ginwright is Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Flourish Agenda, Inc., a national nonprofit consulting firm, whose mission is to design strategies that unlock the power of healing and engage youth of color and adult allies in transforming their schools and communities. He is the author of *The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves, Hope and Healing in Urban Education: How Activists and Teachers are Reclaiming Matters of the Heart*, *Black Youth Rising, Activism and Radical Healing in Urban America*, *Black in School- Afrocentric Reform*, *Black Youth and the Promise of Hip-Hop Culture*, and co-editor of *Beyond Resistance!: Youth Resistance and Community Change: New Democratic Possibilities for Practice and Policy for America's Youth*.

Dr. Ginwright lives in Oakland, CA with his lovely wife and is currently an empty-nester—both children are in college.



Dr. Deidre Farmbry

**Educational Consultant
*Moderator***

Dr. Deidre Farmbry is a career educator, having held the positions of English teacher, English department head, high school principal, regional superintendent, chief academic officer, and interim superintendent. She currently is an independent consultant specializing in social and emotional learning and cultural proficiency and equity. She has provided consulting services to many school districts in the United States, primarily through the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) and Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color (COSEBOC).

A native Philadelphian, Dr. Farmbry received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Temple University and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania. She studied on two occasions at the National College of School Leadership in Nottingham, UK, and attended educational forums in Innsbruck, Austria; Sydney, Australia; Cape Town, South Africa; and Beijing, China. While her favorite form of written expression is poetry, Dr. Farmbry is the author of several published speeches and essays on topics such as professional identity, the impact of context, and the highs and lows of the leadership journey.



Ronald Walker

Founder & Executive Director

Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color (COSEBOC)

Panelist

Ron Walker has over 50 years of experience serving as a teacher, principal, staff developer, and consultant in various educational communities. Currently, Ron serves as the Executive Director and is a founding member of the Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color. The mission of COSEBOC, founded in 2007, is to connect, inspire, support and strengthen school leaders dedicated to the affirmative, social, emotional, cultural and academic development of boys and young men of color. COSEBOC is recognized as a critical organization in the effort to eliminate the academic achievement gap. Ron has grown the visibility of COSEBOC and has made many presentations on the national and state level. He is also the recipient of numerous awards and citations for his work in education.

In 2018, Ron authored Solomon's Plan, A Gift of Education from a Father to His Son. He attributes any success gained to his unrelenting belief in God, the lessons taught by his parents, Solomon and Delores Walker, and the faith that his wife Toni, children, and grandchildren place in him.



Ariel Jimenez

La Cultura Cura Network/Program Coordinator

National Compadres Network

Panelist

Ariel Jimenez is a Fellowship Circle Keeper within NCN's La Cultura Cura Fellowship Path 2 Services Program. He graduated in 2013 from San Jose State University, where he studied Psychology and Sociology. He assisted with facilitating Joven Noble Círculos in San Jose for the past three years and is honored to work with powerful youth in our communities. Mr. Jimenez was born in Ocotlan, Jalisco, Mexico and raised in East San Jose.



Louis Morren

High School Student

Panelist

Louis Morren is a Junior at Excelsior Preparatory High School in Queens, NY.



Erik Nolan

Founder

UMOJA Network for Young Men

Panelist

Erik Nolan is the founder of UMOJA Network for Young Men, Inc., a mentoring and leadership organization for young men ages 5-21. As the leader of this organization, Erik's vision is to create and implement programs that are relatable to participants. Garnering positive outcomes, the organization's goal is to ensure that participants are academically prepared, socially smart, emotionally strong, and spiritually connected. In addition, UMOJA Network provides services for families, recognizing them as an integral part of a child's educational experience. Through workshops, events and forums, parents are given the necessary tools and resources to support their child/children.

Erik is a native of Brooklyn, New York. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Virginia State University. He holds the New York State School Aged Care Credential and Emerging Leadership Certification/ Baruch College and Partner for After School Education. As a personal mission, which he shares with young people, Erik believes must execute excellence, and not exercise excuses.



Ajani Patterson

College Student

Panelist

Ajani Patterson is enrolled at Connecticut College as a Posse Scholar. He will major in Psychology and double-minor in Economics and Finance.



Tavae Samuelu

Executive Director

Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)

Panelist

Tavae Samuelu is the daughter of a pastor from Leulumoega and a nurse from Saleimoa in Sāmoa. As the Executive Director of Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC), she's a passionate advocate for Pacific Islanders and is committed to liberation for all. Tavae was born and raised on Tongva Territory and credits her time on unceded Ohlone land for her political consciousness. Before joining EPIC, Tavae served as the Development Director for the RYSE Youth Center in Richmond and has since become a member of RYSE's Board of Directors. She also serves as the Vice President of the AAPI Equity Alliance board, a member of the NCAPA Executive Committee, and most recently joined the CA 100 as a commissioner. During the pandemic she has learned that her most important title is Aunty Vae.

