

# Mount Vernon High School CARE Conference



**JANUARY 15, 2018**

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## ***CARE Mission Statement***

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***To be impacted by and learn from people who have different experiences than we do.***

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## **Conference Schedule**

8:30 - 9:50 Entertainment & Keynote Speaker

10:00-10:50 Breakout Session 1

11:00-11:50 Breakout Session 2

11:55-12:55 Lunch

1:00-1:50 Breakout Session 3

2:00-3:15 Closing Session/Event

# Keynote Speaker Bio

## Stacey Walker



Born and raised in Cedar Rapids, Stacey Walker feels a personal commitment to make Linn County a safe, healthy and prosperous place for all its families.

At age four, Stacey lost his mother in an unsolved homicide case. He was taken in by his grandmother – Shirley Martin – who left her job as a nurse’s aide to raise Stacey and his sister as a single parent on the southeast side of Cedar Rapids.

A product of public schools and the Boys and Girls Club of Cedar Rapids, Stacey understands firsthand how the government, non-profit and private sectors can collaborate to foster opportunities for all children. Throughout his career, Walker has served on political campaigns at all levels and been a part of several local organizations including the Cedar Rapids Community School District. Not one to back down when it comes to issues of social justice, tolerance and equality, Stacey often writes on political subjects in publications such as Little Village Magazine, Quartz Magazine and Washington Post’s “The Root.”

# Akwi Nji

Room # 208



**Bio:** Akwi Nji is a performance poet, actor, and writer. Her writing explores the complexities of gender, parenthood, race, political and social issues. Her experiences as a Cameroonian and then a Cameroonian-American in Springville, Iowa provided an eclectic foundation for her early writing.

**Session info:** Participants will experience part spoken word performance, part gritty conversation about identity and inclusivity. Akwi Nji's voice and perspective draw audiences in with subtle invitations to reflect on--and challenge--their perceptions of what it means to be American, an activist, and an "other" in a community.

# Ann Dew

Room # 210



**Bio:** Ann Dew has been a local business owner and an employee of the Mount Vernon School district for many years. She is a single mother of 2 boys, Marquis and Tyson

**Session info:** From a mother's heart, let us have an open discussion on the way we look at racial diversity. In this session, we will explore our first impressions based on appearances and see how they line up with the true person behind the face showing how our words, actions, and presuming judgement hurt others around us...sometimes without our knowledge. Ann will be speaking with special guest, MV alumnus Tristan Wirfs.

# Ann Naffier

Room # 129



**Bio:** Ann Naffier is a managing attorney with Iowa Justice for Our Neighbors (Iowa JFON), a non-profit organization that provides free immigration legal counsel and representation to low-income people throughout Iowa in their immigration matters.

**Session info:** Ann will discuss how and why people immigrate to the U.S. and what some of the legal hurdles they have to go through including applying for legal status, citizenship, or facing deportation. Additionally, you can take parts of the citizenship test to see if you would be able to become an American citizen.

# Briana Gipson

Room # 214



**Bio:** Briana is a student at Coe College and has been an intern at the CR Civil Rights Commission since 2015. She is also Miss Black Iowa USA 2018, an Iowa College AmeriCorps member, and a Co-Chair on Coe's Committee on Diversity among other leadership positions and memberships.

**Session info:** In this session with both Briana and Keenan Lee, you will learn about civil rights, especially as they relate to education, and you'll begin to develop self-awareness of your social identity.

# Carlos Sims

Room # 125



**Bio:** In 2009, after a rough upbringing, Carlos Devone began recording music that touches the deepest parts of the human experience. Carlos is a General Manager for a nonprofit coffee shop aimed at helping youth gain employment training in inner city Des Moines, IA.

**Session info:** Hip Hop as a Tool for Change

In this session you will learn the history of hip hop and how it can be used to be a voice for the voiceless to inspire change.

# Dean Borg

Room # 121



**Bio:** Dean Borg is a broadcast journalist with nearly 60-years' experience in reporting political, civil rights, and government events. He holds journalism and political science degrees from ISU and University of Iowa. ISU conferred its Distinguished Achievement Citation to him, the highest award given to alumni.

**Session info:** Witnessing a Convulsive Struggle

In this session you will discuss the struggles of the 1960s Civil Rights Era, including Little Rock, AR as well as local civil rights issues.

# Dick Peters

**Room #123**



**Bio:** Dick Peters spent four years in the US Army before graduating with a degree in history from the University of Iowa. He taught for 21 years at MVHS and 17 years at Cornell. Since retiring, Dick has been an active community speaker and part-time teacher.

**Session info:** Just vs. Unjust Laws

In this session you will discuss Dr. King's definitions of just and unjust laws and then determine of what use this discussion is today. Exciting note: Dr. King posed these same questions here in Mt. Vernon, IA in 1964.

# Dorice Ramsey

**Room # 127**



**Bio:** As Executive Director of Jane Boyd Community House, Ms. Ramsey is an advocate on behalf of children and families, and is unique in her ability to create a collaborative environment to fashion positive outcomes for children in the community.

**Session info:** Beyond ACES

This session will discuss **Adverse **Childhood **Experiences** and provide you with a resource toolkit to build supportive relationships that can reduce the impact of childhood trauma.****



# Dr. Carlos Grant

**Room # 212**



**Bio:** Dr. Grant has over 15 years of experience in education, from classroom teacher to administrator. Dr. Grant spends his free time in community activism through his involvement with various organizations including Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cedar Rapids.

**Session info:** Decide to Act: Intercultural Mindset Shifts

This session will focus on intercultural competency. The learner will be challenged to consider and discuss how diversity is viewed in schools.

# Dr. Ruth White

**Room # 215**



**Bio:** Dr. White is an independent consultant in educational diversity and cultural competence with more than 30 years' experience as an educator.

**Session info:** In my classes, I was the only black student. That was several generations ago, but there are still places (Mount Vernon?) where students still struggle with this reality. I hope you'll be interested in how my family dealt with a long-ago situation that is still prevalent--and relevant--today.

## George Ramsey

**Art room (217)**



**Bio:** George Ramsey, who recently announced his candidacy as a Democratic candidate for United States Congress, is a seasoned leader who inspires employees to invest in the mission, vision, and goals of their organization. His strengths reside in shaping and improving the lives of others.

**Session info:** Let's Talk

This session will include an interactive conversation that will help you address and discuss bias.

## Janet Abejo Parker

**Room # 214**



**Bio:** Janet has worked at the Civil Rights Commission since 2011. She earned a degree in Psychology at the University of Iowa and a Masters of Arts degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at Roosevelt University. Janet is currently an adjunct faculty professor at Mount Mercy University teaching Dispute Resolution.

**Session info:** In this session with both Janet and Judy Goldberg, you will learn about civil rights, especially as they relate to education, and you'll begin to develop self-awareness of your social identity.

# Judy Goldberg

Room # 214



**Bio:** Judy Goldberg is an investigator for the CR Civil Rights Commission and also serves on the city's Wellness Committee. Previously, Judy worked as an attorney for more than 20 years advising, mediating, and advocating for children and adults.

**Session info:** In this session with both Judy and Janet Abejo Parker, you will learn about civil rights, especially as they relate to education, and you'll begin to develop self-awareness of your social identity.

# Keenan Lee

Room # 214



**Bio:** Keenan Lee is an intern for the CR Civil Rights Commission and is a student at Coe College. Keenan's passion for civil rights blossomed when he saw compelling images from photographer Devin Allen of the Baltimore demonstrations protesting the death of Freddie Grey.

**Session info:** In this session with both Keenan and Briana Gipson, you will learn about civil rights, especially as they relate to education, and you'll begin to develop self-awareness of your social identity.

# Keeyon Carter

Room # 209



**Bio:** Keeyon Carter grew up in Waterloo and earned a degree in Communication Studies from ISU. Keeyon became a Community Pastor in 2016 and has had a heart for transformation in under-resourced communities.

**Session info:** Divided: How did we get here?

In this session we will look at ways we may contribute to the divides in our country and also at the psychology of homogenous behavior. We'll also discuss practical ways to be an advocate and ambassador for reconciliation.

# Kori Bassett

Room # 124



**Bio:** Born and raised in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Kory began performing locally as a stand-up comedian at the age of 17. He has since performed in L.A. and abroad before beginning his own company, Bassett Hound Productions in 2010.

**Session info:** In this session I will discuss my personal experience of growing up in the Midwest and then living abroad in New York and L.A., having to come to terms with society's conditioning of race and culture. I will also discuss my 2015 journey through parts of Asia in contrast to Western society's culture and mentality.

## Krystal Gladden

**Room # 213**



**Bio:** Ms. Gladden has served as the Museum Educator of the African American Museum of Iowa since September of 2014.

**Session info:** Endless Possibilities: Iowa's African American History

In this session, we will trace Iowa's African American history from York, the first African American in Iowa and member of the Lewis and Clark expedition, to the first Black president, Barack Obama--the African American community has impacted and been impacted by Iowa.

## LaTasha DeLoach

**Room # 216**



**Bio:** In her position of Community Projects Specialist at Johnson County Social Services, DeLoach advocates for families and is a fierce advocate for young women of color in Iowa.

**Session info:** Black Girls- are they superheroes?

We will explore the hyper visibility of blackness in young girls and the fight to save their childhoods. We will discuss how we can make improvements in classrooms and in the community about how to support their talents, leadership and endless potential.

# LD Kidd

**Choir Room (156)**



**Bio:** Lovar Davis Kidd (L.D.), a native of Cedar Rapids, IA, is an award-winning choreographer, spoken word artist, and dance educator. L.D. currently teaches Tap, Jazz and Hip-Hop at the University of Iowa. When not teaching or choreographing, L.D. is a member of TCR's improv team, JOYRIDE

**Session info:** Hip-Hop: Beats, Rhymes, and the Changing Times

This session, utilizing dance as its main medium, will explore the beats, rhymes, and art of hip-hop and how it's changed/changing.

# Marshaundus Robinson

**Room # 116**



**Bio:** Rev. Marshaundus Robinson is the proud pastor of the Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church of Waterloo, IA where he grew up. He hails from a family who provided him love and support during his early years. He was called into the ministry at the very young age of 13 and began delivering the "Word of God" at the age of 17.

**Session info:** This session is for individuals who desire to see a community changed. Students will discover how change happen through themselves. This session will help students see that they can be the change they want to see because it will start with them.

## RISE/Mary Crandall

### Library



**Bio:** RISE is a reentry program for people coming out of jail/prison. Rise helps people get back on their feet; finding a job, housing, transportation, ID's, birth certificates, whatever they need to succeed. One of the most important things we at RISE do is provide an ear - everybody needs to be listened to and they know that we are not going to judge them. We are there to support them.

**Session info:** Discussing life after jail and prison.

During this presentation, you will hear stories from several RISE participants; hopefully you will see and appreciate a different

## Metropolitan Youth Program Drum Corps Band Room (154)



**Bio:** The Metropolitan Youth Program's mission is to educate at-risk children by capturing their hearts with the vibrant color of the uniforms and the sounds of the drums heard along parade routes throughout the city. "Once we reach them, we can teach them" has been a long lasting motto for Metro.

**Session info:** In this session you will hear from members of the drum corps and participate in some drumming activities.

**Notes:**

My Biggest  
Take Away: