



Gender Norms & Black Youth: Reconnecting Race, Class AND Gender

Speaker Bios | November 29, 2016 @ 2:00 p.m. EST

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Allison R. Brown is the Executive Director of the Communities for Just Schools Fund (CJSF), a collaborative funding project that provides resources in support of community organizers who are forcing the elimination of barriers to educational opportunity for historically under-served students and working to ensure positive and supportive school climates that affirm and foster the success of all students. Prior to joining the CJSF, Allison was a program officer with the Open Society Foundations, where she was responsible for the racial justice portfolio. Allison previously worked as a trial attorney for the United States Department of Justice in the Educational Opportunities Section of the Civil Rights Division where she enforced federal statutes that prohibit discrimination in public education. She also initiated, developed, and led the Civil Rights Division's efforts to combat the school-to-prison pipeline. Allison is a

graduate of Howard University and Harvard Law School. She lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband and two children.



Micah Gilmer, Ph.D., is Senior Partner at Frontline Solutions, a national consulting firm that offers clients in the nonprofit and public sectors a full range of services to enhance impact. His work focuses on strategy, systemic change, and assessment. During his ten years on the leadership team of Frontline, he has directed high impact projects for major national foundations like Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Ford Foundation, and W.K. Kellogg Foundation. He has also worked closely with community and advocacy groups like One Voice Mississippi, Triangle Community Foundation, and Advancement Project. He is a co-creator of the Grantmaking for the 21st Century and of Under Construction, a virtual and travelling exhibit that showcases some of the best and brightest organizations working with males of color. He chairs the board of the Southern Documentary Fund, the learning environment committee of Student U,

and the learning committee of Learn Fresh, creator of NBA Math Hoops. He received his Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from Duke University in 2009. Gilmer is a former Morehead-Cain Scholar, and earned his undergraduate degree in African American and Religious Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, graduating with honors in 2003.



Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Ph.D., is the founding director of the Women's Center at Spelman College and the Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women's Studies. She published the first anthology on Black women's literature, *Sturdy Black Bridges: Visions of Black Women in Literature* (Doubleday, 1980), which she co-edited with Roseann P. Bell and Bettye Parker Smith; her dissertation, *Daughters of Sorrow: Attitudes Toward Black Women, 1880-1920* (Carlson, 1991); *Words of Fire: An Anthology of African American Feminist Thought* (New Press, 1995); and an anthology she co-edited with Rudolph Byrd titled *Traps: African American Men on Gender and Sexuality* (Indiana University Press, 2001). Her most recent publication is a book coauthored with Johnnetta Betsch Cole, "*Gender Talk: The Struggle for Women's Equality in African American Communities*" (Random House, 2003). In 1983, she

became founding co-editor of Sage: A Scholarly Journal of Black Women.



William Jahmal Miller was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown as Deputy Director to the Office of Health Equity at the California Department of Public Health, starting October 2013. In August 2014, the California State Senate unanimously voted to confirm Mr. Miller. Previously, he served as Communications Manager with Kaiser Permanente's National Offices - Community Benefit, Health Policy & Research Division. At Kaiser Permanente, he also served in the Central Valley Service Area, where he was Manager for Community & Government Relations within the Public Affairs Division. Mr. Miller has provided overall management of for Sutter Health's Sacramento Sierra Region as Manager for Strategic Marketing & Communications and oversight of growth, marketing and communications efforts with large-employer groups and brokers. Prior to that, he was the Program Manager for Sutter

Children's Hospital at Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento. Mr. Miller was responsible for managing inpatient and outpatient operations by providing strategic direction for Sutter Children's Cancer Program and Outpatient Clinics. He has been a board member of the California Child Care Referral and Resource Network, one of the most respected systems of child care resources and referrals in the United States. The following are additional volunteer boards where he has served - American Heart Association's Western Region Health Equity Task Force, American Diabetes Association, Bloodsource Community Advisory & Ronald McDonald House Charities. Mr. Miller completed an Executive Fellowship with the Nehemiah Emerging Leaders Program in conjunction with the American Leadership Forum & CORO.



Riki Wilchins is Executive Director of TrueChild, a research and action center that promotes "gender transformative" approaches to improving life outcomes for at-risk youth that challenge rigid feminine and masculine norms and reconnect gender with race and class. She has conducted briefings and trainings for the White House, CDC, Office on Women's Health, Office on Adolescent Health, as well as funding collaboratives like Women's Funding Network, Women Moving Millions, Philanthropy NY, and Jewish Women's Fund Network. Riki's work has been profiled in the NYTimes; TIME selected her among "100 Civic Innovators for the 21st Century."