

## Panel on Social Justice in Education

**Time:** Wednesday, August 23, 6:30 -7:30 p.m.

**Location:** High Meadows School



Join us for this free event designed to help educators and families understand the role schools play in addressing social justice issues with students. Progressive education prepares students for active participation in a democratic society, including support for children to develop a sense of social justice. Come learn from our panel of experts why this is important and how it can be accomplished.

**Andrew Aydin** – Co-author of the graphic novel series *March* which gives a vivid first-hand account of U.S. Representative John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights. Mr. Aydin serves as Digital Director & Policy Advisor to Congressman Lewis in Washington, D.C. A graduate of Trinity College in Hartford and Georgetown University in Washington, Andrew wrote his master's thesis on the history and impact of *Martin Luther King & The Montgomery Story*. The best-selling graphic novels *March: Book One*, *March: Book Two*, and *March: Book Three* are taught in middle schools, high schools, and colleges across the country.



**Tiffany Green-Abdullah M.Ed, PMP** - Manager of Learning Community Development at Georgia State University's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning where she curates innovative and culturally responsive learning communities and reduces silos within the university and acts as a bridge to community to engage with GSU. Tiffany developed *Teaching for Social Justice & Democracy Speaker Series*, which focuses on instructional strategies for faculty to incorporate social justice themes into various subject areas successfully. Tiffany wrote and received a grant from APLU to study *Social Justice and Student Success* at GSU in partnership with the College of Education and Human Development and the Southern Education Foundation.



**Brian Anthony Williams, PhD** - Director of the Alonzo A Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence and a Clinical Professor in the Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education in the College of Education & Human Development at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia. With over 20 years of experience working in schools and other educational communities around the world, Dr. Williams' work is situated at the intersection of science education, urban education, and education for social justice. More specifically, he is interested in the ways in which equity issues related to race, ethnicity, culture, and class influence science teaching and learning and access to science literacy.



**Roberta Price Gardner, PhD** - Clinical Assistant Professor in the College of Education & Human Development's Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education at Georgia State University. She received her doctorate from the University of Georgia in language and literacy education. Her literacy research focuses on high-needs communities of color, and highlights lived experience phenomena, issues of identity, critical perspectives on children's and young adult literature, and creative and transformative literacy pedagogies in school-family-communal contexts.



**Jay Underwood** – Head of High Meadows School in Roswell, Georgia. Jay has led diversity initiatives in three different independent schools and in regional school associations. His activities have included facilitating diversity cohorts for teachers, establishing a scholarship program for Native American students, and serving as an advisor to schools who look to welcome transgender students. A graduate of Guilford College and Rutgers University, Jay recently earned a fellowship to study social justice in independent education at Columbia University alongside 20 other school heads from around the world.



**Tara Vito** – Lead Librarian at The Galloway School where she teaches human rights and service learning classes to middle school students. In her career, Tara has worked in many different types of schools (independent, public, charter and alternative) throughout New England and the southeast region. Tara holds a B.A. in Psychology from Rhode Island College as well as a Masters in Library and Information Services from the University of Rhode Island. She is a member of the American Library Association and serves on several roundtables for social awareness and activism in libraries. She is the current Chair of the American Library Association GLBTRT Reviews Committee and is the Program Coordinator for Georgia Independent School Library Association. She is also a member of the Young Adult Library Services Association, Association of School Librarians and Foster Care Alumni of America.

