

Education Groups Stand for Children Leadership Center and Education Equality Project Join Forces

Written by Forward Times Staff
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New partnership will increase advocacy reach and focus on communities of color

Stand for Children Leadership Center (Stand) and the Education Equality Project (EEP) announced that the two education organizations have permanently joined forces and are now integrating their work to improve public schools and close the pervasive achievement gap that exists in too many American communities, including right here in Texas.

Stand kicked off work in Texas in January and is among the nation's most impactful education organizations, working to engage a constituency of parents and educators.

The Education Equality Project is a pioneer in its field, convening diverse groups of influential leaders from around the United States to improve the American public education system. An impressive roster of American elected officials, civil rights leaders, and education reformers

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joined together in 2008 to form EEP, with a mission to eliminate the racial and ethnic achievement gap in our public schools. Several Texans are on that list, including Houston ISD Superintendent Terry Grier and Austin ISD Superintendent Meria Carstarphen.

This partnership was driven by Stand and EEP's shared mission to ensure that all students graduate high school with the skills and opportunities they need to succeed, and a shared commitment to engage communities to achieve their advocacy goals.

Dr. Michael Lomax, Co-Chair of the EEP Board of Directors and President and CEO of UNCF (United Negro College Fund), said, "Years ago, Stand blazed a trail when it made community organizing and local movements the center of its program. EEP is now joining forces with Stand in order to make the greatest impact in communities of color. Their grassroots structure allows us to connect our leaders and advocates with community-based leaders and advocates, and to work together on policies that will improve graduation rates, transform schools and close the achievement gap."

Working together, Stand and EEP will reach an even broader scope of communities, thus helping more disadvantaged students graduate from high school ready for post-secondary education.

Education Equality Project board member John Legend has joined the Stand for Children Leadership Board of Directors and board members Dr. Michael Lomax and Phil Handy have

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joined the Stand for Children, Inc. national Board of Directors. Leaders of both organizations are optimistic about the potential of this collaboration.

For more information, including a video of support from John Legend, visit:
www.stand.org/equality. {jcomments on}