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Rise to the Challenge, Answer the Call

Placing our children front in center, in the fight for equity and justice!



by [Katrina Hasan Hamilton](#) on January 18 2021

Greetings and welcome! As we honor the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on this national federal holiday, let us Rise to the Challenge and answer the call for the sake of our children.

In this inaugural newsletter, we hope to inform our membership and community on what is happening in San Diego and throughout the County in regards to our Black students and families. Our goal is to ensure Black children are receiving fair and equitable outcomes. Let us know if you have information to share or need our help, together we can make a difference!

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THIS WEEK'S
TOP STORIES



Breach in US Capitol versus Black Lives Matters - How do we Explain injustice to our children?

by **KH Hamilton** on January 18th, 2021

As reports continue to come out that many of the rioters who stormed the US Capitol were in fact police officers, sheriffs, olympic gold medalists and others, what do we tell our children about the value of Black lives and how do we move forward towards healing?

<https://www.doverpost.com/story/news/2021/01/08/we-asked-black-parents-how-they-discussing-attack-capitol-kids/6580836002/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/jan/14/students-teachers-grapple-with-capitol-attack>

President-Elect Joe Biden appoints SDUSD Superintendent Cindy Maarten

by **KH Hamilton** on January 18, 2021

At a time when suspension and expulsion rates of Black Boys and Black Girls are disproportionately high across the United States and of course, right here in San Diego County, the state of education matters now more than ever before in the lives of Black children. Today, on this federal holiday, President-elect Joe Biden has nominated San Diego Unified School District's Superintendent, Cindy Marten as the Nation's Deputy Superintendent for the US Department of Education. While Cindy Marten has made strides this year, she is not our choice for US Dept of Ed's Deputy Superintendent. You can review our stance on this recommendation here.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Update in the Search for Sweetwater Union High School District Superintendent

by [KH Hamilton](#) on January 16, 2021

Thanks to the NAACP-SD and the Black Minds Matter Advocacy Group of San Diego (BMMAG-SD), a local group of Black parents and educators along with Black, Asian, Latino and White advocates, Sweetwater is in the process of opening up the search for its next superintendent. Dr. Shirley Weber and SDCOE Superintendent Paul Gothold contacted the SUHSD after BMMAG-SD reached out to their offices. We will keep you posted on the results as there is still much work to be done in ensuring equity for our Black Children and families in Sweetwater. Out of all the districts in San Diego, SUHSD comes in 2nd only to Grossmont in the disproportionate amount of suspensions and expulsions of our Black students.

School Board Members are Public Officials that REPRESENT ALL CHILDREN!

by [KH Hamilton](#) on January 16, 2021

After criminals coined as "Patriots" stormed the United States Capitol, more details are shedding light on just who actually participated, including police officers and school officials. These criminal acts spilled over into local protests, including right here in San Diego, specifically, Pacific Beach. With pro-Trump demonstrators sprawling down the streets, frightening local business owners, Jill Barto, a Cajon Valley Union School District board was spotted in the crowd of protestors. We must hold these elected officials accountable for their actions! The behavior of Jill Barto and others at the expense of Black and Brown children must end now. We will take action swiftly.

San Diego County Office of Education to Host Equity Conference (January 19 - 22, 2021)

by [KH Hamilton](#) on January 15 2021

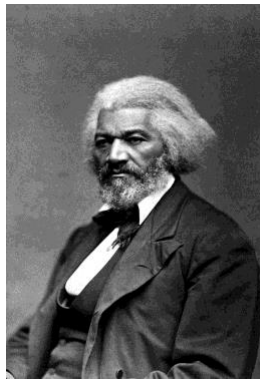
The San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) is hosting its Annual Equity Conference. This year's speakers include Monique Morris, author of PUSH out, Dr. Ghouldy Muhammad, author of Cultivating Genius: An Equity Framework for Culturally and Historically Responsive Literacy, Dr. Zachary Green from the University of San Diego and Dr. J. Luke Wood from San Diego State University among others. For more information and to register visit: <https://sdequity.sdcoe.net/>

Frederick Douglass-James Madison Fellowship Scholarship Opportunity

by **KH Hamilton** on January 16 2021

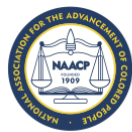
The Frederick Douglass-James Madison Fellowship is a privately funded, \$24,000 graduate fellowship offered to a person of color who is a United States citizen and who is a secondary level teacher or prospective teacher of American history, American government or civics to earn a master's degree studying the Constitution.

With all that has occurred in our nation over the past year and quite frankly, over the past century, it's imperative that we encourage ourselves to return to the classroom and teach. We as Black people along with our advocates must take advantage of opportunities like the Frederick Douglass-James Madison Fellowship. The awardee of this fellowship will be required to follow all of the [rules and regulations](#) of a traditional James Madison Fellowship. You can also apply as a regular James Madison scholar. For more information, visit: <https://www.jamesmadison.gov/fellowship-information/frederick-douglass-james-madison-fellowship>



Interpreted as it ought to be interpreted, the Constitution is a *glorious liberty document*.

Frederick Douglass



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