



THE 11TH ANNUAL

SOURCES OF **URBAN EDUCATIONAL
EXCELLENCE** CONFERENCE

***11th Annual SOURCES OF URBAN EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE
CONFERENCE***

Alonzo A. Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence
College of Education and Human Development
Georgia State University
Atlanta, Georgia

***Breaking (The Neutral) Ground:
Collaboration, Negotiation and Celebration in Urban Education***

Conference Dates: October 21-23, 2016

Pre-conference Dates: October 17-21, 2016

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

DEADLINES

Submission: by 11:59 p.m. EST on Friday, June 3, 2016

Notification: by 5:00 p.m. EST on Friday, July 8, 2016

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

All proposals must be submitted electronically* no later than 11:59 p.m. on **Friday, June 3, 2016**. Submission link: www.surveymonkey.com/r/Sources2016

***No other submission formats will be accepted.**

GENERAL CALL

The 11th Annual *Sources of Urban Educational Excellence Conference* conference committee invites proposals on all topics related to the theme of *Breaking (The Neutral) Ground: Collaboration, Negotiation and Celebration in Urban Education*.

For the past 11 years, the Sources of Urban Educational Excellence Conference has served as a critical space for the discussion and dissemination of solutions to the challenges facing urban education in the southeast United States. The conference serves as a gathering space for Dr. Alonzo A. Crim's *Community of Believers*; a collection of individuals from various fields who have committed themselves to breaking out of their professional silos while cultivating and sustaining quality urban schools.

The conference committee welcomes proposals that examine the different aspects of urban education from a variety of perspectives. Thus, the conference seeks to not only highlight the research and perspectives of higher education faculty and scholars, but also strongly encourages submissions from pre-service and in-service educators, graduate students, activists, policy makers, artists, business and industry members, and community workers interested in forging a positive educational agenda in urban schools. While all proposals of quality are welcome, especially encouraged are those that specifically address this year's theme – *Breaking (The Neutral) Ground: Collaboration, Negotiation and Celebration in Urban Education*.

The 2016 theme calls attention to the need for “controversy with civility” where individuals and organizations can come together in a communal space to discuss and/or hash out sometimes difficult conversations that impact urban education. It draws upon the history of neutral grounds in New Orleans; large tracts of grass-covered land that run between streets and neighborhoods throughout the city. It is believed that these neutral grounds (also known as medians) once served as spaces for the city's various racial and ethnic groups to meet outside of their segregated communities. Thus, neutral grounds were places where groups with different values, beliefs, worldviews and norms could learn ways to value each other and “break new ground” towards enlightened understanding, informed action, conscious resolution and critical reflection. In the same light, the 11th Annual Sources Conference endeavors to serve as a neutral ground where urban education collaborations, conflicts/negotiations and celebrations can be addressed in a solutions-focused context.

CONFERENCE STRANDS

Individuals or groups proposing a session for this year's conference should identify one of the following strands for the presentation **and** select a presentation format:

- ***Breaking Ground:*** Submissions to this strand will focus on new and emerging ideas aimed at creating quality educational opportunities for children in urban communities. Presentations in this strand will extend or challenge established frameworks, policies, paradigms and narratives regarding excellence in urban education. This strand will serve as a space for dynamic conversations regarding excellence in urban education. While critique of existing ideas is necessary, presenters in this strand should focus on specific emerging ideas and how those ideas will support excellence in urban education.
- ***Collaboration:*** Submissions to this strand will focus on work that bridges two or more professional, philosophical, political or disciplinary communities. Presentations in this strand will focus on the complex nature of urban education and solutions that emerge from collaboration. In addition to presentations that bridge communities, we also welcome sessions that present solutions for inviting conversation and collaboration across communities that may appear to have conflicting values, priorities, missions and ideals.

- **Compromise & Negotiation:** Submissions to this strand will focus on how individuals or organizations navigate conflict, disagreement and dissent as they arise in the work. Presenters in this strand will focus on these struggles, the challenges they create, and the strategies for addressing them even if the process of compromise and negotiation is ongoing. This session will serve as a space for exploring the often uncomfortable, ignored and potentially destructive aspects of collaborative work.
- **Celebration & Reflection:** Submissions to this strand will focus proven solutions to challenges in urban education. Presenters in the strand will focus on frameworks, strategies, interventions and programs rooted in action research, community/organizational engagement and targeted practice. In addition to celebrating the successes of the work, presenters may also reflect on the obstacles, pitfalls and lessons learned on the road to success. The sessions will serve as a space of dissemination for effective solutions in urban education, a springboard for discussions around the future of urban education, and the application of recognized solutions to emerging challenges and possibilities. Presentations that relate to building capacity for future endeavors in urban education will be given priority.

FORMATS

- **Conversations with Community** are designed to create spaces for open dialogue among participants on a topic that connects to or supports excellence in urban education. Presenters will briefly frame the topic and then facilitate a large group discussion. These sessions focus less on presenting a single person's ideas and more on connecting perspectives from a variety of participants.
Allotted time: 60 minutes
- **Panel Discussions** provide opportunities for a group of individuals to present ideas on a common topic or theme that connects to or supports excellence in urban education. The session should include a panel of three to five panelists and a facilitator. Sessions should also include time for a facilitated dialogue with participants.
Allotted time: 60 minutes
- **Focus15s** are brief presentations that focus on a specific topic. Each Focus15 presenter will have 15 minutes to present ideas that connect to or support excellence in urban education. These straight-to-the-point talks are meant to inspire questions and dialogue.
Allotted time: 60 minutes
- **Workshops** offer a hands-on/minds-on opportunity to focus on a specific topic or idea that connects to or supports excellence in urban education. Sessions are designed to create spaces for direct engagement with the topics in creative and innovative ways. Sessions should provide participants with opportunities to explore the topic and engage in valuable discussions. **Slots for workshops are extremely limited. We anticipate scheduling no more than four workshops for this year's conference.**
Allotted time: 120 minutes

ABOUT THE CRIM CENTER

The Alonzo A. Crim Center for Urban Education Excellence (CUEE) was established in 1996 by Dr. Lisa Delpit to provide a “city-wide laboratory for the development of excellence in urban education.” Since its inception, the CUEE has served the southeast region of the nation as an interdisciplinary outreach, research and educational support and development hub aimed at continuing the legacy of Dr. Alonzo A. Crim.

It is the mission of the Alonzo A. Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence to extend Dr. Crim’s vision by optimizing the life opportunities of children and families in urban communities by ensuring the availability of a prosperous and equitable school environment. We believe that through our work we can create a world where all children have equal access to educational opportunities that prepare them to be academically excellent, culturally competent and critically conscious. Please visit us at crim.education.gsu.edu for more information.

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Please direct questions to dsalter@gsu.edu