

**TASK FORCE ON BLACK AND LATINA YOUNG
WOMEN AND GIRLS**



Task Force on Black and Latina Young Women and Girls, 2020-21

COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS

Task Force Chairs

Sharon Contreras, Guilford County Superintendent

Kelly Gonez, Los Angeles School Board Member

Council of Great City Schools

Taskforce on Black and Latina Girls and Young Women

Revised goals (03.2020)

1. To assist urban public-school systems in improving college and career readiness and the life outcomes of Black and Latina young women and girls by supporting the implementation of evidence-based strategies to educate girls from diverse racial, cultural, national, and linguistic backgrounds.
2. Improving the learning environment and climate in urban schools by addressing the racism and bias that contributes to the epidemic of violence, harassment, discrimination and bullying that hinders the progress of Black and Latina young women and girls.
3. Improving access to health information and comprehensive health care, including physical and mental health, to reduce teen pregnancy, premature parenting, and ultimately economic insecurity for Black and Latina young women and girls.
4. Improving the quality of professional learning that fosters a deeper understanding of educators' role in dismantling systemic and structural barriers and creating support systems needed for Black and Latina young women and girls' academic and life-long success.
5. Ensuring data collection, as well as the establishment of accountability and protocols, in order to monitor the progress of Black and Latina young women and girls across their diverse student groups in our member districts.

FALL CONFERENCE PRESENTATION



Those who say it can't be done are usually
interrupted by others doing it.

(James Baldwin)

BE BOLD BE DRIVEN BE YOU



Grace James Academy of Excellence

Fall 2020

- 150 6th grade girls
- STEAM Academy for all girls (Interdisciplinary teaching and learning.)
- Educated through an Afrocentric/gender-specific lens
- SEL curriculum is a priority (Sense of Belonging)
- Saturday enrichment component
- Personalized & student led learning
- Student agency, voice and choice are valued and encouraged
- **ALL** girls are welcome to apply
- Diverse educators that our open for personal and professional growth.



GRACE JAMES

ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE

Mission

Our mission is to empower, activate, and illuminate academic excellence in each and every girl through an Afrocentric and gender specific STEAM curriculum.

Vision

Grace James G.E.M.S (girls excelling in Math and Science) will boldly conquer limitless possibilities.

Values

Collaboration
Resilience
Originality
Willingness
Narrative
Sisterhood

What does it take to start an all-girls STEAM with a Afrocentric & gender-specific curriculum?

- * **Moral imperative**
- * **Courage to challenge the status quo**
- * **Heart**
- * **Urgency of NOW**
- * **Passion to advocate for what is right**
- * **Data elicited from student voice**
- * **Owning the pink elephant in the room**
- * **Supportive Superintendent and School Board**
- * **Stakeholder advocacy**
- * **Collaborative team**
- * **Willingness to understand different perspectives and lived experiences**
- * **Tenacious & fearless**
- * **Keenly aware of your biases and intentionally challenge your deeply ingrained beliefs**

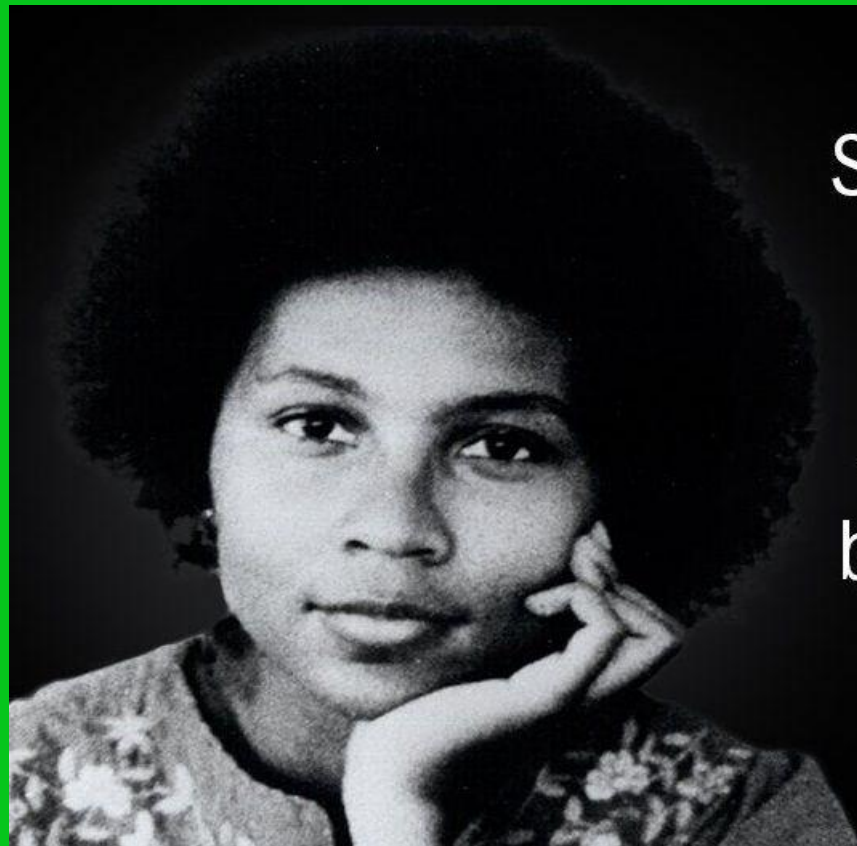


Ruby Bridges, November, 1960



Little Rock Nine, Sept. 1957

Be Bold Be Driven Be You



Sometimes **people try to destroy**
you, precisely **because they**
recognize your power
- not because they don't see it,
but because they see it and they
don't want it to exist.

— *Bell Hooks*

Common Generational Names in the U.S.



late 90s to 2010s

Gen Z, iGen, or Centennials

1980 to late 90s

Millennials or Generation Y

1965 to 1979

Thirteeners or Generation



1900 to 1924

G.I. Generation

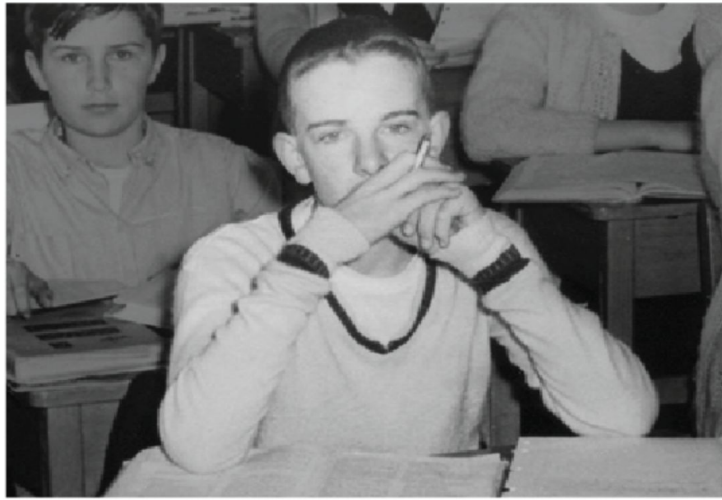
1925 to 1945

Traditionalists or
Silent Generation

1946 to 1964

Baby Boomers

Which student would best be prepared to contribute and compete in this global economy?



STUDENT A

Math
Science
English
Social Studies

12



STUDENT B

Content Mastery
Communication
Collaboration
Other 21st Century Skills

**Grace James Academy of Excellence is
NOT your generation's school
experience.**

**We provide a school experience for the current
generation. Traditional ways of experiencing school
will not be projected onto our GEMS.**

WHY STEAM?

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics)

- In 2016, white women earned **6,777** PhDs in STEM fields
- White men earned **8,478** terminal degrees
- Black women dwindle to **684—10** times fewer scientific doctorates than their white counterparts.
- With only **3.5%** of STEM bachelor degrees, Latina women face an even larger obstacle at breaking into the STEAM field

The Future of Work: Will Your Daughter Be Prepared????



You Can't Be What You Can't See...



Community Partners & Learning Beyond the Walls of Grace James Academy of Excellence

- Mentorship for our G.E.M.S. (Perspective and Possibility)
- Collaborative Teaching with GJA Teachers
- Friday Beyond the Crown Learning Experiences (Located throughout Louisville)
- Environmental Equity

University of Louisville Speed School of Engineering

Metro Sewer District (MSD)

Louisville Gas & Electric

General Electric

Kentucky State University

Greeley & Hansen Environmental Engineers

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

Rondo Foundation

The L.E.E. Way Foundation

The FISLL Project

Allan Houston Legacy Foundation

Discovery Ed

Verizon Innovative Learning

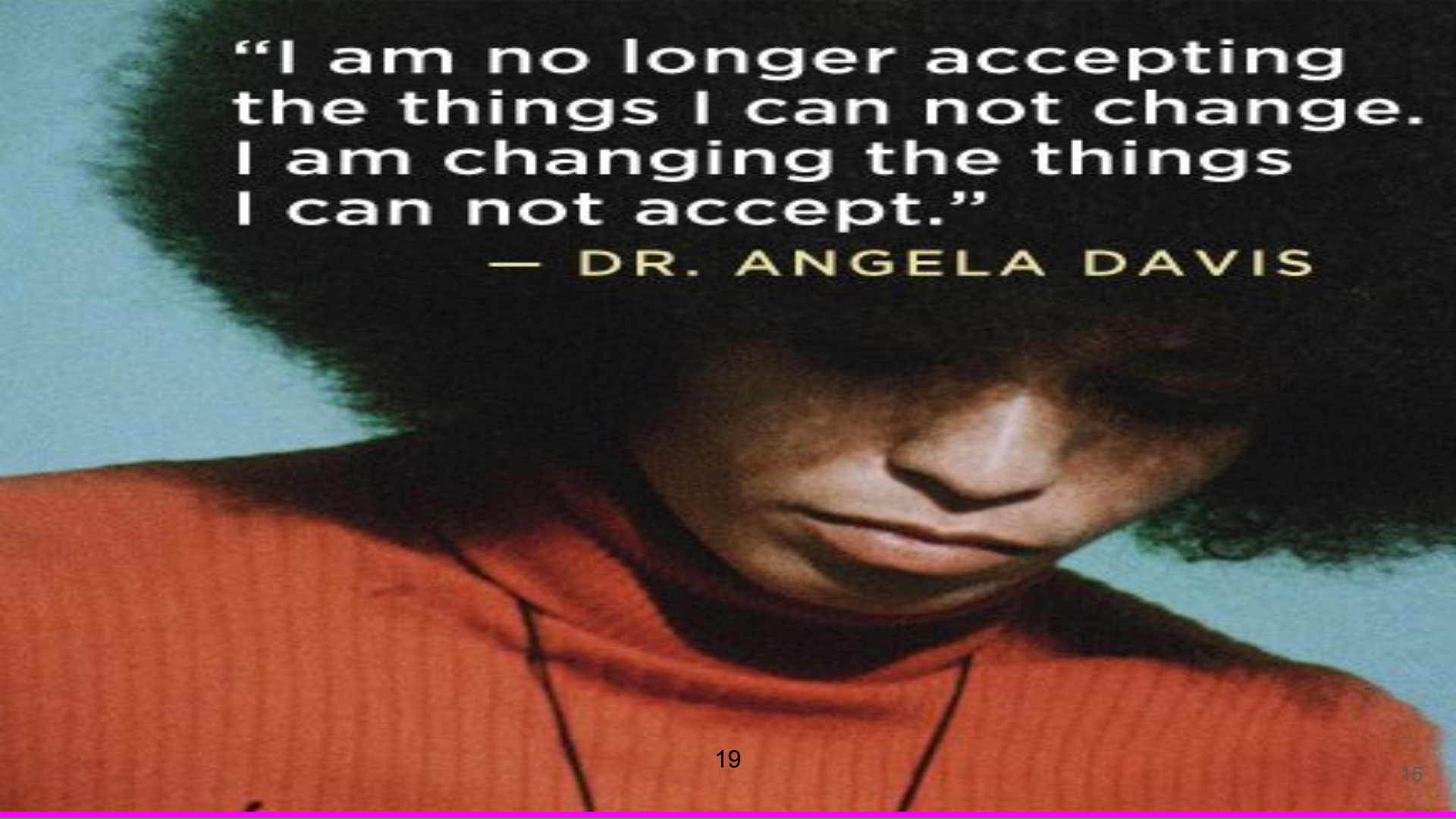
University of Louisville School of Medicine

Why Afrocentric/Gender specific?

The paradox of education is precisely this; that as one begins to become conscious one begins to examine the society in which he is being educated.

~James Baldwin



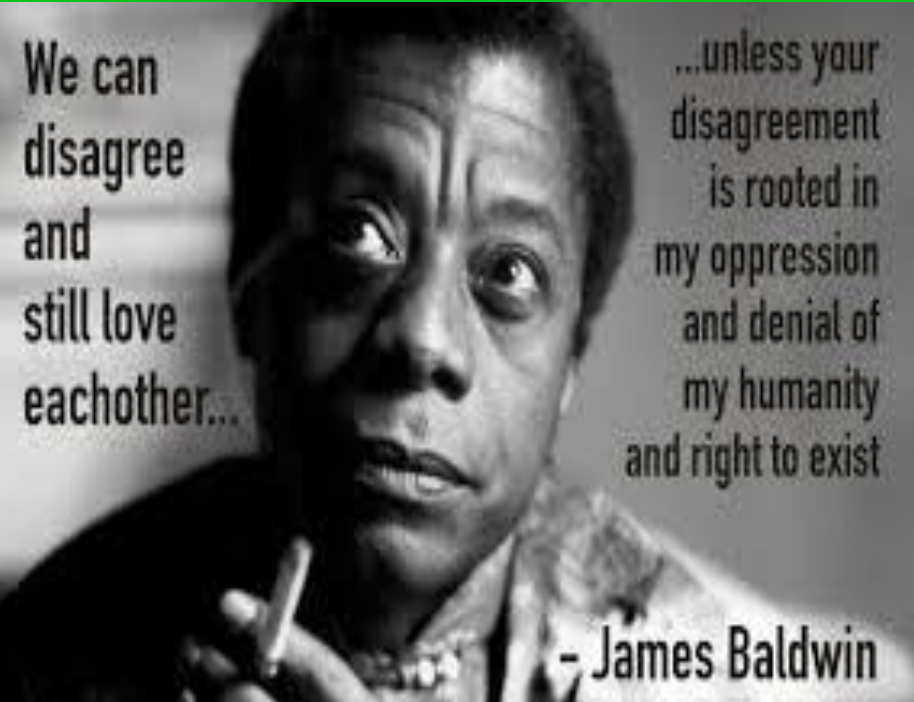


**“I am no longer accepting
the things I can not change.
I am changing the things
I can not accept.”**

— DR. ANGELA DAVIS

Afrocentric Framework

Special thanks to Dr. LaGarrett King for the guiding principles in which our framework was built.

A black and white portrait of James Baldwin, looking upwards and to the right, holding a lit cigarette in his right hand. The image is framed by a dark border.

We can disagree and still love each other...

...unless your disagreement is rooted in my oppression and denial of my humanity and right to exist

- James Baldwin

Theme 1

Identity/Narrative

Theme 2

Humanity

Theme 3

Justice/Oppression

Theme 4

Change(s)/African Diaspora

Theme 5

Innovation

Theme 6

Intersectionality

Be Bold Be Driven Be You

Grace James we

Encourage criticality

**Allow students to be themselves &
unapologetically embrace their culture**

Provide spaces for girls to be seen and heard

**Support students in co-creating learning
experiences**

**Expects excellence combined with scaffolded emotional and
academic support from an asset based lens vs a deficit lens.**

Be Bold Be Driven Be You

