We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals and organizations whose dedication and support have made this Educators Rising conference possible. Your invaluable contributions have enriched the experience for everyone involved.

To Our Judges, Speakers, Panelists, and Moderators:
Thank you for sharing your expertise, insights, and passion for education. Your guidance and knowledge have inspired and empowered our attendees to pursue their aspirations in the field of education.

To Our Welcoming Facilitators:
Your warmth, hospitality, and organizational skills have set a welcoming tone for our conference. Your efforts have ensured that all participants feel valued and included from the moment they arrive.

To Our Student Cabinet and Student Interns:
Your enthusiasm, energy, and dedication have been instrumental in the success of this event. Your leadership and initiative serve as shining examples for your peers and future educators.

To Central Connecticut State University and the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE):
We express our sincere appreciation for your partnership and support. Your commitment to advancing education and nurturing aspiring educators has been instrumental in making this conference a reality.

Together, you have created a collaborative and enriching environment where ideas are shared, connections are made, and passions are ignited. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the future of education.

@edrisingct
Don't forget to check out our social media channels to relive the wonderful memories from the conference! We've captured the highlights, the smiles, and the unforgettable moments throughout the event.
Welcome & Remarks
8:30-8:50

Dr. Paula Talty, Interim Dean/Certification Officer
School of Education and Professional Studies, Central Connecticut State University

Danyelix Echevarria-Figueroa, Student Cabinet President
Connecticut Educators Rising, New Britain

Kiana Foster-Mauro, 2024 Connecticut Teacher of the Year, New London

Charlene Russell-Tucker, Commissioner,
Connecticut State Department of Education

Sinthia Sone-Moyano, Deputy Commissioner,
Connecticut State Department of Education

Breakout Sessions/ Competitions*
9:00-11:00

* A detailed schedule for each check-in is on the next pages of the conference booklet.

Lunch
10:45-11:15

Competition Awards
11:20-11:35

Announcers and presenters of Award Winners:
Dr. Shuana Tucker and Dr. James Lane
Student Assistants: Giovanni Mason-Brooks and Michaela de los Cientos,
CCSU Aspiring Educators

Increasing Educator Diversity Symposium: "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges, & Cultivating Diversity Across Education Professions"

*Details for the symposium can be found at end of the conference booklet.

Closing Remarks
12:55-1:00

Dr. Shuana Tucker, Chief Talent Officer
Connecticut State Department of Education
IED SYMPOSIUM AGENDA
“BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING BRIDGES: CULTIVATING DIVERSITY ACROSS EDUCATION PROFESSIONS”

-ALUMNI HALL-

Welcome
11:35-11:40

Dr. Shuana Tucker, Chief Talent Officer
Connecticut State Department of Education
Keynote Speaker
Dr. James Lane, CEO, Educators Rising PDK International

Increasing Educator Diversity Panelist Discussion
12:00-12:55

Moderator: Sherrod Cuttino, Aspiring Educator, CCSU
Representative at Large for EdRising Student Cabinet

Panelists
- Elizabeth Morales, Social Worker, Torrington Public Schools
  elizabeth.morales@torrington.org
- Matthew Paylor, Assistant Principal, Weston Public Schools
  matthewpaylor@westonps.org
- Crystal Davis, School Counselor, Bristol Public Schools crystaldavis@bristolk12.org
- Chris Fulton, Director of Athletics, Windsor Public Schools cfulton@windsorct.org
- Lorenzo Baker, Physical Education Teacher, Bristol Public Schools
  lorenzobaker@bristolk12.org
- Eric Perez, Physical Education Teacher (First Year Teacher),
  Waterbury Public Schools
  eric.perez@waterbury.k12.ct.us
- Dawn Dickau, 2024 CT Para Educator of the Year

Closing Remarks
12:55-1:00

Dr. Shuana Tucker
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Audience Capacity</th>
<th>Session Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philbrick Theatre</td>
<td>50</td>
<td><strong>2024-2025 Student Survey</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Facilitator:</strong> Student Cabinet Officers&lt;br&gt;<strong>Welcoming Student Cabinet</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Survey Assistants:</strong> Student Cabinet Officers, Natalia Karas and Dayna Quinonez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Theatre</td>
<td>30</td>
<td><strong>Bridging Educators Rising High School to Aspiring Educators College</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Facilitators:</strong> Giovanni Mason-Brooks and Michaela de los Cientos&lt;br&gt;<strong>Aspiring Educators</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Welcoming Official:</strong> Elizabeth Sked, Connecticut Education Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sprague Theatre</td>
<td>35</td>
<td><strong>Dual Enrollment</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Facilitator:</strong> Dr. Paula Talty, Interim Dean/Certification Officer, School of Education and Professional Studies, CCSU&lt;br&gt;<strong>Welcoming Official:</strong> Isaias Rodriguez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carleton Theatre</td>
<td>35</td>
<td><strong>Middle School Competitions</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Facilitators:</strong> Middle School Students&lt;br&gt;<strong>Welcoming Official:</strong> David Hemme, Jr., New Britain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Breakout Session #3**

**10:30-11:00**

Breakout sessions have limited room capacity. Please ensure you follow your registered session on the form to avoid any capacity issues. Thank you for your cooperation!
## COMPETITORS SCHEDULE*

**9:00-11:00**

Make sure to locate your designated time, room, and building to ensure you're well-prepared for your competition slot.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Children's Literature Inside Our Schools</th>
<th>EdRising Moment Inside Our Schools</th>
<th>Lesson Planning &amp; Delivery</th>
<th>Exploring Non-Core</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue &amp; White Room</td>
<td>Isabella Klugman, Ridgefield</td>
<td>Anas Hales, Manchester</td>
<td>Deana Simms, New Britain</td>
<td>Esme Bryant Carter, New Britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audience Capacity: 20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judges:</td>
<td>Terry Turcotte</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lauren Miele</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clock Tower Room</td>
<td>Alivia Afable, Waterbury</td>
<td>Madelina Molina, Waterbury</td>
<td>Craig Hunte, Waterbury</td>
<td>Yarelis Reyes, New Britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audience Capacity: 20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judges:</td>
<td>Johanna Robles</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mary Kate Pompano</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1849 Room</td>
<td>Morgan Comstock, Stamford</td>
<td>Shelby Lewis, Ridgefield</td>
<td>Gabriella Cruz, New Britain</td>
<td>Dulce Fernandez, New Britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audience Capacity: 20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judges:</td>
<td>Talisha Foy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Janice Pina</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean's Office Barnard 327</td>
<td>Isabella Siciliano, Stamford</td>
<td>Adrianna Valentin, New Britain</td>
<td>Callista Assante, Manchester</td>
<td>Melany Sanchez, New Britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Audience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judges:</td>
<td>Dr. Jessica Ocasio</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Debbie Weaver-Balough</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### COMPETITORS SCHEDULE*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Competitors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Isabella Klugman, Ridgefield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:20</td>
<td>Alivia Afable, Waterbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:40</td>
<td>Morgan Comstock, Stamford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Isabella Siciliano, Stamford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:20</td>
<td>Delray Sanchez, Stevan Roman, New Britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:40</td>
<td>Inside Our Schools Ridgefield, Shelby Lewis, Isabella Klugman, Katherine Burns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*During the competition, please turn off cell phones, refrain from taking photographs, and do not leave the room.*
### Breakout Session #1

**9:00-9:30**

Breakout sessions have limited room capacity. Please ensure you follow your registered session on the form to avoid any capacity issues. Thank you for your cooperation!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Audience Capacity</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Facilitator</th>
<th>Welcoming Official</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philbrick Theatre</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Student Leadership and the Nationals Experience</td>
<td>Isaias Rodriguez, Mimi Colon</td>
<td>Michaela de los Cientos, Aspiring Educator, CCSU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Theatre</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Hiring Practices</td>
<td>Marthe Gulledge, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator</td>
<td>Sherrod Cuttino, Aspiring Educator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Sprague Theatre          | 35                | Recruiting You Diverse Staff with EdRising: Administrator Panel       | - Michael Merati, Waterbury
- Jay Lipp, Bridgeport
- Jaimie Rechenberg, Bristol
- Sarah Duso, Equity Director, Norwich Public School
- Moderator: Sal Escobales, Associate Principal, Manchester Public School | |
| Carleton Theatre         | 35                | Breaking Bridges & Cultivating Diversity in Education Profession     | Ericka Boutote & Waterbury Career Academy Team, Waterbury                   | Michaela de los Cientos, Aspiring Educator, CCSU         |
BREAKOUT SESSION #2

9:45-10:15
Breakout sessions have limited room capacity. Please ensure you follow your registered session on the form to avoid any capacity issues. Thank you for your cooperation!

Philbrick Theatre
First Year Insights
Audience Capacity 50

Moderator: James Jones, Executive Director, New Britain Boys and Girls Club
Jon Coe & Mikayla Wells, Plainville
Christine Hopkinson & Danny Martins, Ridgefield
John Anastasio & Julie Ayers, Watertown
Elsa Bautista, Kimberly H. Davis, Stephen Foresi, Newington

Camp Theatre
Building Diversity in Your Middle Schools
Audience Capacity 30

Panel Teams:
Dr. Nicole Sanders, New Britain
Eileen Marquez, New Britain
David Hemme Jr., New Britain
Melissa Krodel, Norwich
Francis Saraceni, Norwich

Moderator: Carrie E. Young-McWilliams, Ed.D., Great Schools Partnerships

Sprague Theatre
Overview of EdRising, Mini-Grants, Diversity Scholarships and CT Registered Teacher Apprenticeships
Audience Capacity 35

Facilitator: CSDE

Welcoming Official: Danyelix Echeverria

Carleton Theatre
How to Recruit Students in a Grow-Your-Own Diverse EdRising Program
Audience Capacity 35

Facilitator: Dan Lauture, Stamford

Welcoming Official: Mimi Colon