Join the City of Tulsa, Community Service Council and our panel of experts as we explore the Tulsa Equality Indicators data around Education, and discuss efforts to address disparities in barriers to and opportunities for educational success and student outcomes in Tulsa.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS

DEBORAH A. GIST is the superintendent of Tulsa Public Schools and a proud graduate of Memorial High School. She holds a bachelor of science in early-childhood education from the University of Oklahoma, a master of arts in elementary education and curriculum from the University of South Florida, a master’s degree in public administration from the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government, and a doctoral degree in education leadership from the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to returning home to lead Tulsa Public Schools, Deborah served as commissioner of education for the State of Rhode Island where student achievement reached historical highs, and graduation rates increased significantly.

CARLISHA WILLIAMS BRADLEY is a passionate educator and youth advocate who serves as the Executive Director of ImpactTulsa. Carlisha has held leadership roles as an educator, administrator, superintendent, and nonprofit leader showcasing her expertise in designing focused strategies, providing innovative learning opportunities for students, developing leaders, and maintaining strong community and organizational partnerships. Carlisha has had the opportunity to work in multiple education sectors including traditional public school systems, public charter schools, and international girls education. In addition to her work at ImpactTulsa, Carlisha serves as the Congressional District 1 Oklahoma State Board of Education Member where she is charged with determining the policies and overseeing the supervision of the PK-12 public school system of Oklahoma impacting over 700,000 students.

RICARDO RIVERA is the Director of JUVENGAF. The name reflects the mission and means Youth Guarantee of the Future. Ricardo created this program when he moved to Tulsa in 2009 with his wife and children, and has been the director of the program since 2014. Although he works full time at Ameristar Security Fences, he volunteers his time to mentor the Hispanic youth in the area and provide leadership and direction for them. He hopes to teach them to do well in school, strive for higher education and reach their full potential.

DR. JOYCE MCCLELLAN is the Chief Development & Diversity Officer at Tulsa Tech. She has been with Tulsa Tech for 15 years and currently leads the Student Placement & Outreach departments. Her team works with industry partners to support work-based learning opportunities for students. Joyce is responsible for reactivating the Tulsa Tech Diversity Council. Joyce and the DC executive officers provide Diversity & Inclusion training to the District during: onboarding of new staff, professional development days, and in classroom programs. Joyce received her Bachelors of Science degree from Lincoln University. After earning her Masters degree at the University of Oklahoma, she taught at Tulsa Community College and Langston University. Joyce received her Doctoral degree from Oklahoma State University in 2006.