

Inclusive school environments: Improving outcomes for students with and without disabilities

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The Brookings Institution
Tuesday, September 12, 2017
2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

BROOKINGS

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Inclusive school environments: Improving outcomes for students with and without disabilities

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The Brookings Institution, Falk Auditorium, 1775 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C.

Around the world, students in special education are often kept separate from general education peers in their schools, if they attend the same school at all. However, evidence suggests that inclusive school environments benefit both special and general education students, reducing bullying and social isolation while increasing health and agency.

At the same time, a growing consensus of educators suggests that social and emotional learning (SEL) is crucial to school success and can be taught. SEL is critical not only in promoting improved behavior and inclusive school cultures, but also in promoting academic achievement and positive health and employment outcomes. If schools are to fulfill the promise of teaching 21st century skills, increasing attention should be paid to the important role of social and emotional learning and, in a special way, to achieving inclusive school cultures as an important outcome.

Special Olympics and other organizations, researchers, and policy makers are working to make schools into centers of inclusion where both general and special education students are supported and benefitted in their development as classmates, peers, and friends. The implications of this work around the world are still being evaluated even as the urgency of addressing the gaps in access to education increases.

On September 12, the Center for Universal Education at Brookings and Special Olympics will host a discussion on the impact of inclusion in schools and efforts to increase school inclusion in the United States and around the world. This event will include brief presentations on the scholarly and policy implications of inclusion as well as first-hand narrative from a 'unified pair' of general and special education peers. These opening remarks will be followed by a moderated discussion.

After the session, panelists will take audience questions. Join the conversation on Twitter #gloaledu

Panel

Moderator: Rebecca Winthrop

Senior Fellow and Director, Center for Universal Education
The Brookings Institution
@RebeccaWinthrop

Cassandra Jones

Youth Leader
Special Olympics New York

Timothy Shriver

Chairman
Special Olympics

Norris Haynes

Professor
Southern Connecticut State University

Joe Pignatelli

Youth Leader
Special Olympics New York

To RSVP, please contact the Brookings Office of Communications at events@brookings.edu, or visit: <http://connect.brookings.edu/register-to-attend-inclusive-school-education>

Norris Haynes

Norris Haynes, Ph.D., is professor in the department of educational leadership and policy studies at Southern Connecticut State University.

He has been the founder and director of the Center for Community and School Action Research (CCSAR). He has served as chairperson of the Counseling and School Psychology Department. Dr. Haynes is also associated clinical professor at the Yale University School of Medicine Child Study Center where he was director of research for the Comer School Development Program.

Dr. Haynes earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology, a Master of Arts degree, and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS) in education and counseling from the State University of New York. He earned a Ph.D. in psychology and a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in health services administration from Howard University. He completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in psychology at Yale University. Dr. Haynes is a licensed psychologist. He is a fellow of the American Psychological Association and holds diplomate status in the International Academy for Behavioral Medicine, Counseling and Psychotherapy.

Dr. Haynes has taught, and has been a school counselor at the elementary and high school levels. He has served as a consultant to many school districts, state departments of education and colleges of education. He has worked extensively with children and families. He serves on a number of editorial boards and advisory boards for national psychological and educational research and intervention organizations and agencies. He is a founding member of the leadership team for the Collaborative for Academic Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) based at the University of Illinois Chicago and a founding member of the leadership group on Social and Emotional and Character Development (SECD) based at Rutgers University, New Jersey.

He has served as a member of the national expert panel on school violence and on the national advisory group to the Congressional Black Caucus on youth violence. He has been a member of the Character Education Blue Ribbon Schools Review Panel. He is a member of the National Study Group on Supplementary Education and has served on the Harlem Children's Zone advisory committee on research and evaluation serving also as co-principal investigator for the longitudinal study of the Harlem Children Zone's child development and educational programs.

Dr. Haynes is the author of many articles, book chapters, and monographs. He has authored and coauthored several books.

Cassandra Jones

Cassandra is a freshman from the University at Albany who intends to major in political science.

Originally from Rochester, New York, Cassandra was among the very first individuals who helped implement the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools program in her high school.

Striving to completely transform the social climate of her school, she worked hard to create a better atmosphere and community for students with intellectual disabilities by running awareness campaigns, fundraisers, and by participating in the Youth Activation Committee, who support and foster friendships with people with intellectual disabilities. Because of her dedication, Cassandra was asked to speak at the second Youth Activation Summit and co-host the third. This past February she was asked to lobby on behalf of Special Olympics New York in Washington D.C. on Special Olympics' Hill Day. Cassandra hopes to someday be elected to a federal office so she can continue making a

difference in this world.

Joe Pignatelli

Joe Pignatelli is 19 years old, lives in the United States, and is a freshman at Hudson Valley Community College.

He has been a Unified athlete for Mechanicville High School and an Athlete Congress member with Special Olympics for 3 years. Throughout his high school journey, Joe has played Unified basketball, bowling, and swimming. Joe is a member of his Athlete Congress for Special Olympics. In his free time, Pignatelli enjoys playing video games, watching TV, and hanging out with friends.

Timothy Shriver

Tim Shriver is the chairman of Special Olympics International, and in that capacity he serves with over 5.3 million Special Olympics athletes and their families in 170 countries.

Shriver has been a part of an amazing team that has created exciting new Special Olympics programs in athlete leadership, cross-cultural research, health, education, and family support. Among them, Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® has become the world's largest public health examination and education program for people with intellectual disabilities, and Special Olympics Unified Schools has become a powerful program promoting school-based social inclusion and unified leadership. In addition, he has worked to garner more government support for issues of concern to the Special Olympics community, testifying before the United States Congress and challenging government leaders worldwide to respect the dignity and possibilities of people with intellectual disabilities.

As part of his passion for promoting the gifts of the marginalized, Shriver has harnessed the power of Hollywood to share stories of inspiration and change, co-producing DreamWorks Studios' 1997 release, "Amistad," and Disney Studios' 2000 release, "The Loretta Claiborne Story." He is executive producer of "The Ringer," a Farrelly Brothers' film, and "Front of the Class," a Hallmark Hall of Fame television movie. He has produced or co-produced shows for ABC, TNT, and NBC networks, and made broadcast appearances on "The Today Show," "Good Morning America," "Meet the Press," CNN, "the Stephen Colbert Show," and "Real Time with Bill Maher." In 2014, Shriver wrote the New York Times bestseller "Fully Alive: Discovering What Matters Most," where he shares the life-changing impact of people with intellectual disabilities and their capacity to inspire others to find out about what matters most.

Before joining Special Olympics as chairman in 1996, Shriver was and remains a leading educator focusing on the social and emotional factors in learning. He co-founded and currently chairs the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), the leading research organization in the field of social and emotional learning, and currently co-chairs the National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development.

Shriver earned his undergraduate degree from Yale University, a master's degree in religion and religious education from Catholic University, and a doctorate in education from the University of Connecticut. He is the recipient of numerous honors, including honorary degrees from Loyola University, New England College, Albertus Magnus College, University of Connecticut, Niagara University, University of Illinois, Villanova University, Springfield College, and St. Peter's University; the Medal of the City of Athens, Greece; the Order de Manuel Amador Guerrero of the Republic of Panama; the Connecticut Citizen of the Year Award; the U.S. Surgeon General's Medallion; the Lions Humanitarian Award; the Quincy Jones Humanitarian Award; the Children's Hospital Health System's Friend of Children Award; the "Bammy" Special Achievement in Education Award; and the 2015

Walter Camp Football Foundation's Distinguished American Award. In 2011 he was recognized by The Huffington Post as one of the top 100 game changers, and in 2016 he was named to the Oprah Winfrey Network's SuperSoul 100 list of trailblazers whose vision and life's work are bringing a higher level of consciousness to the world around them. He has also authored numerous articles in leading publications including The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Huffington Post, and Commonweal Magazine.

Shriver is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, president of the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, serves on the board of the WPP Group, LLC, and is a co-founder of Lovin' Scoopful ice cream company.

He and his wife, Linda Potter, reside in the Washington, D.C. area and have five adult children.

Rebecca Winthrop

Rebecca Winthrop is a senior fellow and director of the Center for Universal Education.

She is the former head of education for the International Rescue Committee, a humanitarian aid NGO. Her research focuses on education in the developing world, with special attention to the skills children need to succeed in life, and improving quality learning for the most marginalized children and youth, including girls and children affected by extreme violence.

Select recent publications include "Millions Learning: Scaling Up Quality Education in Developing Countries" with Jenny Perlman Robinson; "What Works in Girls' Education: Evidence for the World's Best Investment" with Gene B. Sperling; and "Why Wait 100 Years? Bridging the gap in global education," with Eileen McGivney.

She was educated at Columbia University, Teachers College (Ph.D, 2008), Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs (MA, 2001), and Swarthmore College, (BA, 1996).