NOW WHAT?
REPORTING ON EDUCATION AMID UNCERTAINTY

ONLINE | MAY 3-5, 2021 | ewa
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NOW WHAT?
REPORTING ON EDUCATION AMID UNCERTAINTY

ONLINE | MAY 3-5, 2021
A future for everyone.
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EWA wishes to thank our sponsors and supporters of the 74th EWA National Seminar.
MONDAY
MAY 3
PLenary SESSIONS

12:00 - 12:10 p.m.
Beat Reporting Award Announcement

12:10 - 1:00 p.m.
A Conversation With Education Secretary Miguel Cardona

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona discusses his plans for federal education policy, outlines the government’s effort to help schools and students recover from the pandemic, and takes questions.

Miguel Cardona, U.S. Department of Education

Sarah Carr, independent journalist

1:00 - 1:30 p.m. BREAK
CONCURRENT SESSIONS
1:30 - 2:15 p.m.

The COVID Slide and What to Do About It

One of the most important tasks schools face in the recovery is to pinpoint academic gaps students face and devise strategies to effectively address them. This challenge is exacerbated by students’ widely varying experiences in the pandemic. Panelists discuss key data on the scope of the learning gaps and promising practices to support students.

Emma Dorn, McKinsey & Company
Angélica Infante-Green, Rhode Island Department of Education
Sonja Santelises, Baltimore City Public Schools
Chastity Pratt, The Wall Street Journal (Moderator)

K-12 Datapalooza: Key Data Sets for Covering the COVID 'Recovery' in Schools

Journalists offer guidance on data tools that might be helpful for reporters in their daily coverage post-pandemic. They review national and state data tools that can come in handy on deadline, including the U.S. Census Bureau’s monthly household pulse surveys and the Federal Communications Commission’s broadband data maps.

Dahlia Bazzaz, The Seattle Times
Alex Harwin, EdWeek Research Center
Jennifer Smith Richards, Chicago Tribune (Moderator)

The Case of the 400,000 Missing College Students

Covid has pummeled student enrollments at many schools, notably the nation’s community colleges. Which students are not enrolling? Will they come back? And what are colleges doing to find them?

Nia Badley, Cleveland School of Science and Medicine
Angela Johnson, Cuyahoga Community College
Doug Shapiro, National Student Clearinghouse Research Center
Amy Morona, Crain’s Cleveland Business (Moderator)

2:15 - 2:45 p.m.

BREAK
CONCURRENT SESSIONS
2:45 - 3:30 p.m.

Knowing and Addressing Students’ Social and Emotional Needs

The pandemic has interrupted social interactions and hurt student well-being. Understanding students’ social and emotional needs will be crucial in the coming year. What new methods are emerging for gauging social and emotional needs, competencies and learning? How has the pandemic affected SEL and what does that mean for teaching and learning?

| Julia Joy Dumas Wilks, Great Oaks Charter School, Wilmington, DE |
| Libby Pier, Education Analytics |
| Juany Valdespino-Gaytán, Dallas Independent School District |
| Kevin McCorry, WHYY (Moderator) |

Community Members: Communicating to Audiences Across the Political Spectrum

The last year has left many of us feeling exhausted, divided, and mostly unheard. How do you communicate to create change in a politically divided world? What happens when your audiences are divided? Hear from communications experts on how to push through the noise and bring people together.

| Donté Donald, Fenton Communications |
| Anya Harrington, Communities in Schools |
| Blair Mann, Data Quality Campaign |
| Kimberly Hefling, GMMB (Moderator) |

Does Career Education Have a Starring Role in the Recovery?

As the nation prepares for a post-pandemic world, what role will career and technical education play for adults, colleges, and their communities? Are states focused enough on adult learners? What is the right balance between spending on CTE in high schools and at the college level?

| Dana Davis, Community College of Aurora (CO) |
| Leah Lykins, WhereWeGo |
| Jason Gonzales, Chalkbeat Colorado (Moderator) |

SPONSOR SESSION

Covering Technology in the Classroom

As schools shifted to remote and hybrid learning in the pandemic, education technology (edtech) was thrust into the spotlight. With schools and districts spending more than $25 billion on edtech each year, what should reporters know about the technology in classrooms and the research that goes into developing it? Join us for a discussion with experts and educators on this timely and important topic.

| Melissa Collins, John P. Freeman Optional School, Memphis, TN |
| Richard J. Davidson, Center for Healthy Minds at the University of Wisconsin-Madison |
| Bart Epstein, EdTech Evidence Exchange |
| Nilesh Patel, Kairos Academies, St. Louis, MO |
| Greg Toppo, independent education writer and author (Moderator) |

(Sponsored and organized by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative.)
3:30 - 4:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

What Reporters Need to Know About State Testing in 2021

With the Biden administration largely holding fast on the resumption of state assessments this year, critical questions remain on the scope of testing, as well as what can and should be done with the results. Experts discuss what testing will look like, strengths and limitations of the exams, and other key issues.

Andrew Ho, Harvard University
Scott Marion, Center for Assessment
Lynn Vasquez, New Mexico Public Education Department
Erik Robelen, Education Writers Association (Moderator)

SPONSOR SESSION:
Did Over 30 Years of Standards-Based Education Advance Equity and Academic Outcomes?

Standards-based education has guided U.S. education policy for three decades. What have been the accomplishments and unintended consequences of the K-12 standards movement? How have students, families, and educators experienced this era? What has the standards agenda meant for equity, especially for Black, Latino, and indigenous students? Panelists reflect on these questions and share findings of a new report. (Sponsored and organized by The Aspen Institute Education & Society Program.)

Danielle Gonzales, The Aspen Institute Education & Society Program
Paul Reville, Harvard Graduate School of Education
Keri Rodrigues, National Parents Union
Stephen Sawchuk, Education Week (Moderator)

Left, Right, Center: Where Partisans Disagree, and Agree, on Education

Conservative education policy analyst Rick Hess pairs up with Pedro Noguera, a prominent advocate of equitable education and dean of the University of Southern California Rossier School of Education, to discuss where the left and right agree — and disagree — on important education issues.

Frederick Hess, American Enterprise Institute
Pedro Noguera, University of Southern California
Emmeline Zhao, The 74 (Moderator)

4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
CONCURRENT SESSIONS
5:15 - 6:00 p.m.

Shop Talk: Public Service Journalism
Finalists and winners in the public service category of EWA’s National Awards for Education Reporting reveal what it took to carry out their exceptional projects and what others can learn from their experiences.

Ian Shapira, The Washington Post
Yana Kunichoff, Chalkbeat Chicago
Dan Mihalopoulos, WBEZ (Moderator)

Shop Talk: Visual Storytelling
Journalists honored in EWA’s National Awards for Education Reporting discuss how they harnessed the power of images at a time when video, data visualization, and other visual media play a growing role in newsrooms.

Malaka Gharib, NPR
Robert Kinlaw, EdNC
Cory Turner, NPR
Erin Einhorn, NBC News (Moderator)

Shop Talk: Feature Stories
From documentaries to magazine pieces to timely news takeouts, what makes for great feature stories? Finalists and winners in EWA’s National Awards for Education Reporting discuss hallmarks of standout examples of the genre.

Samantha Shapiro, Freelance/New York Times Magazine
Emily Tate, EdSurge
Eva-Marie Ayala, The Dallas Morning News (Moderator)
“The Neag School of Education programs were the ones that I felt best prepared me for a successful future in education and leadership. I feel blessed to have had the great learning opportunities at UConn over the last 20 years. The Neag School is a tremendous resource, not only as a school of education, but as partners as we work to improve education in Connecticut.”

Miguel Cardona
’01 MA, ’04 6th Year, ’11 Ed.D., ’12 ELP
U.S. Secretary of Education

Learn more at s.uconn.edu/SecretaryCardona
SPONSOR SESSION

11:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Tragedy or Turning Point? Serving Students With Disabilities After the Pandemic

As the pandemic hit, the sudden shift to remote learning struck students with disabilities particularly hard. Yet public schools have long faced challenges meeting these students’ needs. Experts and practitioners discuss whether the pandemic can be a turning point for students with disabilities and explore what programs and practices show promise. *(Sponsored and organized by American Institutes for Research)*

Doug Fuchs, Vanderbilt University
Lynn Fuchs, Vanderbilt University
Kasandra Posey, Civitas Education Partners
Dia Jackson, American Institutes for Research (Moderator)

BREAK

11:45 - 12:00 noon

PLENARY SESSIONS

12:00 - 12:10 p.m.

Eddie Prize Announcement

12:10 - 1:10 p.m.

What Pandemic-Driven Changes in Education Will Last, and Why?

Education will never be the same again. Or will it? COVID-19 disrupted business as usual in the K-12 and postsecondary domains, from the delivery of instruction to testing, parent-teacher conferences, college admissions and financial aid. To what extent will changes sparked or accelerated by the pandemic have staying power? What are the implications for educational equity?

Daniel Domenech, AASA: The School Superintendents Association
Joshua Kim, Dartmouth College
Robin Lake, Center on Reinventing Public Education
Robert Vela, San Antonio College
Erica Green, The New York Times (Moderator)
CONCURRENT SESSIONS
1:30 - 2:15 p.m.

Family Engagement in a Post-COVID Era

The grand experiment with remote instruction in the pandemic hasn’t just impacted teachers and students. It has also changed the relationship of parents to their children’s learning, and provided a firsthand look at the virtual classroom experience. Experts and parent advocates explore how the role of families in education may shift, and ways schools and others can support the change.

Sarah Carpenter, Memphis Lift
Keri Rodrigues, National Parents Union
Vidya Sundaram, Family Engagement Lab
Rebecca Winthrop, Center for Universal Education
Katherine Lewis, freelance journalist (Moderator)

Research Implications for School Leadership

New research indicates that the impact of school principals on student achievement and school outcomes has been understated and understudied. Experts discuss behaviors and skills shared by the most effective school leaders, and how new research findings intersect with issues of educational equity — in the principal pipeline and beyond.

Jean Desravines, New Leaders
Constance Lindsay, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Kerensa Wing, Collins Hill High School, Suwanee, GA
Denisa Superville, Education Week (Moderator)

Lessons Learned: The Future of College Instruction After COVID

College instruction, uneven long before COVID-19, sustained a shock during the pandemic. Students report countless challenges, such as instructors who communicated only by email, classroom rules ill-suited to online study, and even professors who burst into tears. After a year of disrupted learning, what’s ahead for the nation’s college classrooms?

Marjorie Blen, San Francisco State University
Rachel Davenport, Texas State University
Jonathan Zimmerman, University of Pennsylvania
Jeffrey Young, EdSurge (Moderator)
AIR is a Leading Resource for Education Journalists, Policymakers and Practitioners

Our mission is to generate and use rigorous evidence that contributes to a better, more equitable world

MEDIA CONTACT
Dana Tofig, Director, External Relations
(202) 403-6347 | dtofig@air.org

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**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

2:45 - 3:30 p.m.

**Tutoring: Quick Fix or Lasting Strategy in K-12 Education?**

With American Rescue Plan Act funds on the way, schools are eyeing individual tutoring as a tool to help students catch up. Research shows that tutoring can work when well-structured and highly focused. Yet examples of poor implementation abound. Experts discuss hallmarks of effective tutoring and consider its use immediately post-COVID and beyond.

_A.J. Gutierrez, Saga Education_

_Amanda Neitzel, Johns Hopkins University_

_Anne Sung, Houston Independent School District_

_Liz Bowie, The Baltimore Sun (Moderator)_

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**Community Members: The Current State of DEI Efforts**

Many believe that diversity, equity, and inclusion should be front and center in any organization’s communications efforts – but are they? Hear from communications experts on the state of DEI efforts and learn how to center racial equity and justice in your work.

_Niiobli Armah IV, We-Collab_

_Samia Mirza, We-Collab_

_Tanja Reed Marshall, The Education Trust (Moderator)_

---

**A Year of ‘Teachable Moments’: Civic Virtues and Character Education in Action**

Following a tumultuous year, how can educators develop inclusive and supportive campus climates? How might a focus on character traits such as integrity, compassion, justice, and empathy improve student learning and outcomes? What approaches are schools taking to nurture these traits through experiential learning and classroom instruction?

_Ashley Rogers Berner, Johns Hopkins University_

_Arria Coburn, The Springfield (MA) Renaissance School_

_Andrew Smarick, The Manhattan Institute_

_Emily Richmond, Education Writers Association (Moderator)_

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**SPONSOR SESSION**

The Power of One-on-One Check-ins

How are you doing today? Simple questions like these have proven invaluable for teachers to connect one-on-one with students. In recent years, research has confirmed what great teachers will tell you: When we know students, they learn better. Educators discuss evidence-based approaches to meaningful check-ins with students, whether through scheduled mentoring sessions or emerging technologies. *(Sponsored and organized by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative.)*

_Daniel Motta, LEAD Innovation Studio, Kansas City, KS_

_Laura Tollis, Saline Middle School, Saline, MI_

_Samia Zaidi, Gradient Learning (Moderator)_

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TUESDAY, MAY 4
3:30 - 4:45 p.m.

EWA’s Pet Parade
TUESDAY, MAY 4

3:45 - 4:00 p.m.

BREAK

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

How Summer 'School' Will Look Different This Year

Amid pressure to address massive learning disruption, student well-being, and inequities in opportunity, how are communities using this unusual summer? School districts will have billions in fresh federal aid. Hear from district and community leaders who are seizing the opportunity to innovate and build a bridge to the coming school year.

Aaron Philip Dworkin, National Summer Learning Association
Ebony Johnson, Tulsa Public Schools
Jennifer Peck, Partnership for Children and Youth
Erin Richards, USA Today (Moderator)

Race on Campus: How to Fairly and Accurately Cover the Changing Reality

A continuing barrage of racist acts — from hateful comments to violent attacks against people of color — is energizing many student activists to address racism at their colleges. Researchers and leaders share insights, data and context on what to expect as the nation’s students head toward an uncertain summer and return to campus.

Eli Capilouto, University of Kentucky
Julie J. Park, University of Maryland
Dorien Rogers, Salisbury University
Adam Harris, The Atlantic (Moderator)

SPONSOR SESSION
Learning Beyond COVID-19: Obstacles and Opportunities

The pandemic has raised awareness of inequities affecting children’s ability to succeed academically — from broadband access to taking on a job or missing meals — as well as public interest in addressing them. Our panel will explore the obstacles students face and what should be done to ensure they succeed in the new school year. (Sponsored and organized by the National Education Association)

Gina Harris, Julian Middle School, Oak Park, IL
Becky Pringle, National Education Association
Lori Stratton, high school English teacher, Lawrence, KS
Cory Turner, NPR (Moderator)

4:45 - 5:15 p.m.

BREAK
SOMETHING IMPORTANT HAPPENS
IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS


The more than 3 million members of the National Education Association are deeply committed to the success of every student. Together with families, students, lawmakers, and community organizations, we work to ensure that every student has qualified, committed and caring educators, and that our nation invests in the right school priorities.
CONCURRENT SESSIONS
5:15 - 6:00 p.m.

From Bylines to Book Jackets - Higher Ed
Hear from professional journalists who turned their beat coverage of higher education into books.

Adam Harris, The Atlantic
Josh Mitchell, The Wall Street Journal
Andy Thomason, The Chronicle of Higher Education
Melissa Korn, The Wall Street Journal (Moderator)

From Bylines to Book Jackets - K-12
Hear from professional journalists who turned their coverage of K-12 education into books.

Emma Brown, The Washington Post
Danielle Dreilinger, independent journalist
Jo Napolitano, independent journalist (Moderator)

3 Great Hacks to Save Your Time, Story and Career
Journalists will share new techniques and strategies they've developed to collaborate with other newsrooms for public service journalism, improve source diversity, and advocate for yourself in your newsroom.

Caroline Bauman, Chalkbeat
Eder Campuzano, The Oregonian
Nirvi Shah, Politico
Allison Kowalski, Education Writers Association (Moderator)
WEDNESDAY
MAY 5
SPONSOR SESSION
11:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Return, Recover and Reimagine: Rewriting the Future of America’s Public Schools

Rethinking the future of public education is an urgent priority as schools reopen for full-time, in-person instruction. This panel will explore the idea of schools as centers of community and engagement where parents want to send their kids, educators want to work and kids can thrive. And it will discuss philanthropy’s role in creating an equitable public education system as we embrace new modes of teaching and learning post-pandemic. (Sponsored and organized by the American Federation of Teachers.)

Kent McGuire, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
José Muñoz, Coalition for Community Schools
Randi Weingarten, American Federation of Teachers
Howard Blume, Los Angeles Times (Moderator)

11:45 - 12:00 noon

BREAK

PLENARY SESSIONS
12:00 - 12:10 p.m.

Grand Prize Announcement

12:10 - 1:10 p.m.

Race, Wealth, Test Scores, or? Who Gets Into the ‘Best’ Schools

Few education issues ignite greater passion than the question of who gets to go to coveted schools. At a time of reckoning over institutional racism, battles over admissions policies — from selective preschools to magnet high schools to top-ranked colleges — have acquired more urgency. What should journalists consider in covering this complex topic?

Anthony Carnevale, Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce
Lee Cheng, Friends of Lowell Foundation
Cara McClellan, NAACP Legal Defense Fund
Jeff Selingo, Author (Moderator)
As Teachers Gird for What’s Next, Workforce Issues Abound

The pandemic hit the teacher workforce hard, and uncertainty about the coming year remains rampant. From hot topics such as morale and turnover to lesser-known issues like teacher prep, the field faces major challenges and opportunities. Experts forecast what lies ahead, including emerging instructional models and rethinking the role of individual teachers.

Marisol Garcia, Arizona Education Association
Dan Goldhaber, American Institutes for Research
Keri Hubbard, Cadence Learning
Madeline Will, Education Week (Moderator)

How I Did the Story - K-12

Reporters share insights on covering key issues including educational equity and school integration, and offer tips on building sources among students, families, and educators.

Chana Joffe-Walt, This American Life
Blanca Vázquez Toness, The Boston Globe
Stephanie Wang, Chalkbeat (Moderator)

Data Training: The Stats Used to Document ‘College Value’

Two of the nation’s leading higher education data researchers walk you through data sets and tools that are frequently used to analyze the individual and societal payoff to investments in higher education.

Dominique Baker, Southern Methodist University
Robert Kelchen, Seton Hall University
Chris Quintana, USA Today (Moderator)
CONCURRENT SESSIONS
2:45 - 3:30 p.m.

Child Care and Early Education: Crawling to ‘Recovery’

With federal stimulus funds set to be released to states this summer, how can reporters prepare to cover and track developments in the essential early care and education sector? Experts offer guidance on what to watch for as the field seeks to recover from the pandemic, and suggest story ideas for education journalists to explore in the year ahead.

Katie Hamm, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Caitlin McLean, Center for the Study of Child Care Employment
Rochelle Wilcox, Wilcox Academy of Early Learning, New Orleans, LA
Jackie Mader, The Hechinger Report (Moderator)

Community Members: Reporter Roundtable

In a perennially popular offering, EWA gathers veteran reporters to share insights with community members on the kinds of pitches and news developments that capture their attention — and the kinds that don’t.

Reema Amin, Chalkbeat
Doug Lederman, Inside Higher Ed
Delece Smith-Barrow, Politico (Moderator)

How I Did The Story - Higher Ed

Reporters share insights on covering key issues from the beat, including Title IX investigations, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on student learning and campus finances, and more.

Sara Ganim, University of Florida
Gabriella Paul, University of Florida
Michael Vasquez, The Chronicle of Higher Education
Teresa Watanabe, Los Angeles Times (Moderator)

SPONSOR SESSION
Learning Loss vs. Well-being: Why We Don’t Have to Choose

The pandemic’s impact on health and emotional well-being has come on top of other stressors, including the trauma-inducing effects of structural racism laid bare over the past year. Join us for a discussion with experts on how schools and districts are fostering well-being and resilience for students and teachers in the face of unprecedented stress, while also supporting academic achievement. (Sponsored and organized by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative.)

Joyce Dorado, UCSF Healthy Environments and Response to Trauma in Schools
Denise Forte, The Education Trust
Keri Rodrigues, National Parents Union
Tammy Stephens, Bear Lake High School, Montpelier, ID
Arianna Prothero, Education Week (Moderator)

3:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Adolescence on the Mind: Helping Teens Out of the Pandemic

Building social connections outside the family, especially with peers, is key to healthy adolescent development. Yet isolation wrought by the pandemic has curtailed social opportunities. What works to help adolescents overcome such setbacks? What do surveys of students in high school and middle school show about the impact of the past year?

Innovations Changing Higher Education and Career Pathways

The meteor of COVID-19 is forcing notoriously slow-evolving colleges to make rapid changes to survive. Hear from some of the most important innovators in higher education about how leading colleges are turbocharging their student supports, coming up with new ways of teaching, and developing new training pathways to good jobs.

Shop Talk: Beat Reporting

Reporters recognized for top-notch beat coverage discuss techniques for managing a beat effectively and offer ideas for finding and prioritizing stories that make a difference for their unique audiences.

Shop Talk: Investigative Reporting

Finalists and winners in EWA’s National Awards for Education Reporting explore how journalists can identify promising topics for investigative projects about education and bring them to fruition in today’s news environment.
CONCURRENT SESSIONS
5:15 - 6:00 p.m.

Shop Talk: Audio Storytelling

Amid a podcasting boom, reporters recognized in EWA's National Awards for Education Reporting for their powerful use of sound share insights into the special opportunities and challenges of creating great audio journalism.

Alex Baumhardt, APM Reports
Marianne McCune, WNYC
Ki Sung, KQED (Moderator)
Improving outcomes for low-income students
AWARDS WINNERS & FINALISTS
The National Awards for Education Reporting

2020 Awards Winners & Finalists

**FEATURES**

**SMALL NEWSROOM**

Inside a Preschool That Treats the Youngest Victims of the Opioid Crisis
Emily Tate
EdSurge

Finalists:
- A Border School for Asylum Seekers Goes Virtual
  Jo Napolitano
  The 74
- The Long Digital Divide: How Four Presidential Administrations Failed to Fix Internet Inequality Prior to the Pandemic
  Kevin Mahnken
  The 74

**MIDSIZE NEWSROOM**

It’s Creating a New Normal: A Navajo School District and Its Students Fight to Overcome Amid COVID-19
Anthony J. Wallace and Megan Marples
Cronkite News at Arizona State University

Finalists:
- The Broken Promise of Alexander v. Holmes
  Bracey Harris
  The Hechinger Report
- Traveling to the African Diaspora to Prepare Black Students for College
  Casey Parks
  The Hechinger Report

**LARGE NEWSROOM**

The Children in the Shadows
Samantha Shapiro
The New York Times

Finalists:
- Climate Change: Are We Ready?
  Caroline Preston and Pete D’Amato
  The Hechinger Report
  Rebecca Klein
  HuffPost
- The Test of Their Lives
  Laura Meckler
  The Washington Post

**BEAT REPORTING**

**SMALL NEWSROOM**

Jon Marcus on the Higher Education Beat
Jon Marcus
The Hechinger Report

Finalists:
- Education in Minnesota’s Immigrant and Refugee Communities
  Becky Z. Dernbach
  Sahan Journal
- Student Wellness and Special Education
  Carolyn Jones
  EdSource

**MIDSIZE NEWSROOM**

Investigating the Impact of Coronavirus on Texas’ Public Schools
Aliyya Swaby
The Texas Tribune

Finalists:
- Indiana Beat Reporting
  Stephanie Wang
  Chalkbeat
- Ricardo Cano’s Beat Reporting
  Ricardo Cano
  CalMatters

**LARGE NEWSROOM**

Bianca Vázquez Toness
Bianca Vázquez Toness
The Boston Globe

Finalists:
- Dana Goldstein, K-12 Schools
  Dana Goldstein
  The New York Times
- Laura Meckler
  Laura Meckler
  The Washington Post

**AUDIO STORYTELLING**

**SMALLER NEWSROOM**

Black at Mizzou: Confronting Race on Campus
Lauren Brown, Sabby Robinson, Chris Julin, Catherine Winter and Alex Baunhardt
APM Reports

Finalists:
- Covid on Campus
  Sasha Aslanian, Stephen Smith and Catherine Winter
  APM Reports
- WFPL Series on Student Assignment and Segregation in Louisville
  Jess Clark
  WFPL Louisville Public Media

**LARGER NEWSROOM**

Two Schools in Marin County
Marianne McCune, Kai Wright, Christopher Werth and Karen Frillmann
WNIC Studios

Finalists:
- NPR’s 2020 College Road Trip
  Elissa Nadworny and Lauren Migaki
  NPR
- Starting College Behind
  Kate McGee and Kate Grossman
  WBEZ Chicago

**LARGEST NEWSROOM**

The Children in the Shadows
Samantha Shapiro
The New York Times

Finalists:
- Climate Change: Are We Ready?
  Caroline Preston and Pete D’Amato
  The Hechinger Report
  Rebecca Klein
  HuffPost
- The Test of Their Lives
  Laura Meckler
  The Washington Post
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

SMALLER NEWSROOM

Separated By Design
Jacqueline Rabe Thomas
The Connecticut Mirror

Finalists:
DeVos on the Docket: An Investigation of America’s Most-Sued Education Secretary
Linda Jacobson
The 74

School Abuse
Ann Dornfeld, Liz Jones and Isolde Raftery
KUOW News

LARGER NEWSROOM

JCPS Pulls Troubled Kids From Schools, Outraging Parents
Mandy McLaren
The Courier Journal

Finalists:
At College Health Centers, Students Battle Misdiagnoses and Inaccessible Care
Jenn Abelson, Nicole Dungca, Meryl Kornfield and Andrew Ban Tran
The Washington Post

Targeted
Kathleen McGrory and Neil Bedi
Tampa Bay Times

MIDSIZE NEWSROOM

Guidance From DeVos Means More Coronavirus Relief for Private Schools
Matt Barnum
Chalkbeat

Finalists:
Michael Vasquez: Georgia Universities’ Covid Crisis
Michael Vasquez
The Chronicle of Higher Education

The Nation’s Largest School System Goes All-Remote as New York City Becomes the Epicenter of the Coronavirus
Alex Zimmerman, Christina Veiga and Reema Amin
Chalkbeat

LARGE NEWSROOM

Fairfax County Schools
Hannah Natanson
The Washington Post

Finalists:
The Pandemic and Illinois Schools: A Digital Divide, Vulnerable Students and Hidden Data
Jodi S. Cohen and Jennifer Smith Richards
Chicago Tribune
Haru Coryne
ProPublica Illinois

Trump’s Words, Bullied Kids, Scarred Schools
John Woodrow Cox, Hannah Natanson and Perry Stein
The Washington Post

NEWS

SMALL NEWSROOM

A ‘Drastic Experiment’: Coronavirus and the Future of American Schooling
Barbara Kantrowitz, Jackie Mader, Lillian Mongeau and Caroline Preston
The Hechinger Report

Finalists:
Ed-Tech Companies Promise Results, But Their Claims Are Often Based on Shoddy Research
Sarah Butrymowicz, Tara Garcia Mathewson
The Hechinger Report

Higher Ed’s Coronavirus Woes: A Deeper Dive
Jon Marcus, Meredith Kolodner and Sarah Butrymowicz
The Hechinger Report

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Chicago Tribune
Haru Coryne
ProPublica Illinois

Trump’s Words, Bullied Kids, Scarred Schools
John Woodrow Cox, Hannah Natanson and Perry Stein
The Washington Post

PUBLIC SERVICE

SMALLER NEWSROOM

Why Don’t We Know Podcast: Education Records
Sara Ganis, Tori Whidden, Camille Respess, Amy Fu, James Sullivan, Daniel Townsend, Gabriella Paul, Marianna Faiello and Frank LoMonte
The Brechner Center for Freedom of Information at the University of Florida

Finalists:
Demystifying Chicago’s Local School Councils
Staff
Chalkbeat Chicago, Block Club Chicago, DataMade

Reading Curriculum in Colorado Schools
Ann Schimke
Chalkbeat

LARGER NEWSROOM

Racism at the Virginia Military Institute
Ian Shapira
The Washington Post

Finalists:
Equity in Boston’s High School Admissions
Meghan E. Irons, Bianca Vázquez Toness, Malcolm Gay and Sarah Carr
The Boston Globe

Tracking the Coronavirus at Colleges
The Staff of The New York Times
The New York Times

NOW WHAT?
REPORTING ON EDUCATION AMID UNCERTAINTY

Education Writers Association • 74th National Seminar • #ewa21 • 32
VISUAL STORYTELLING

SMALLER NEWSROOM

Becoming the Conductor
Robert Kinlaw
EducationNC

Finalists:
Making It Work: A Day in the Life of Families Living Through a Summer Like No Other
Emmeline Zhao, JoAnne Wasserman, Taylor Swaak, Patrick O’Donnell, Bekah McNeel and Jim Fields
The 74

Strength in Rural Places: Anchored in Hayesville
Caroline Parker, Taylor Shain and Robert Kinlaw
EducationNC

LARGER NEWSROOM

Just for Kids: A Coronavirus Comic
Malaka Gharib and Cory Turner
NPR

Finalists:
NBC Nightly News: Kids Edition
Staff of NBC Nightly News
NBC News

What Back to School Might Look Like in the Age of Covid-19
Dana Goldstein, Yuliya Parshina-Kottas and Aliza Aufrichtig
The New York Times

PLEASE NOTE:

Listed on these pages are the winners and finalists of the 17 categories of the 2020 National Awards for Education Reporting.

The winners of three special awards — the Ronald Moskowitz Prize for Outstanding Beat Reporting, the EGF Accelerator's Eddie Prize, and the Fred M. Hechinger Grand Prize for Distinguished Education Reporting — will be announced during the conference.
FRED M. HECHINGER
GRAND PRIZE
for Distinguished Education Reporting

2019
Jennifer Smith Richards, Jodi S. Cohen and Lakeidra Chavis
Chicago Tribune/ProPublica Illinois

2018
Hannah Dreier
ProPublica
New York Magazine
The New York Times Magazine

2017
John Woodrow Cox
The Washington Post

2016
Brian Rosenthal
Houston Chronicle

2015
Cara Fitzpatrick, Lisa Gartner, and Michael LaForgia
Tampa Bay Times

2014
Nikole Hannah-Jones
ProPublica

2013
Julie Snyder, Ben Calhoun, Alex Kotlowitz, Linda Lutton, Robyn Semien, and Ira Glass
WBEZ/This American Life

2012
David Jackson, Gary Marx, Alex Richards, and Scott Strazzante
Chicago Tribune

2011
Daniel Golden and Oliver Staley
Bloomberg News

2010
Daniel Golden, John Hechinger, and John Lauerman
Bloomberg News

2009
Bob Hohler
The Boston Globe

2008
Blake Morrison and Brad Heath
USA Today

2007
Martha Irvine and Robert Tanner
The Associated Press

2006
Jean Rimbach and Kathleen Carroll
The Bergen Record

2005
Linda Lutton, Kati Phillips, and Jonathan Lipman
Daily Southtown

2004
Joshua Benton, Holly Hacker, and Herb Booth
The Dallas Morning News

2003
Christine Willmsen and Maureen O’Hagan
Seattle Times

2002
Eric Eyre and Scott Finn
Charleston Gazette

2001
Patrick Healy
The Boston Globe

2000
Kenneth Weiss
Los Angeles Times

1999
Tim Simmons
Raleigh News and Observer

1998
Deb Kollars
Sacramento Bee

1997
Jacques Steinberg
The New York Times

1996
Robert Frahm and Rick Green
The Hartford Courant

1995
Dudley Althaus
Houston Chronicle

1994
Neil A. Borowski, Laura Bruch, Thomas Ferrick, Craig McCoy, Dale Mezzacappa, John Woestendiek, and Martha Woodall
The Philadelphia Inquirer

1993
Stephen Henderson
The Lexington Herald-Leader

1992
Kimberly J. McLarin
The Philadelphia Inquirer

1991
Theresa Churchill, Ron Ingram, and Carol Alexander
Herald & Review (Decatur, Illinois)

1990
Ann Carnahan and Tony Pugh
The Rocky Mountain News

1989
Emily Sachar
New York Newsday

1988
Team of 14 reporters
Chicago Tribune

1987
Emily Sachar
New York Newsday

1986
Ricardo Gandara
Albuquerque Tribune

1985
Janet Groat
Macou Telegraph & Tribune (Georgia)

1984
Cindy Goodaker
The Oakland Press (Pontiac, Michigan)

1983
Robert Frahm
Journal Times (Racine, Wisconsin)

1982
Fred Anklam and Nancy Weaver
Clarion-Ledger (Jackson, Mississippi)

1981
Mary Bishop, Thomas Ferrick, Jr., and Donald Kimelman
The Philadelphia Inquirer

1980
Rena W. Cohen
The Daily and Sunday Herald (Arlington Heights, Illinois)

1979
Staff of 10 writers
Charlotte Observer

1978
Stanley Moulton and Laurel Sorenson
Daily Hampshire Gazette

1977
Lou Antosh
Philadelphia Bulletin

1976
James Worsham and Marguerite Del Guidice
The Boston Globe

1975
Jonathan Neumann
Daily Hampshire Gazette (Northampton, Massachusetts)

1974
James Nolan and Linda Stahl
Courier Journal (Louisville)

1973
William Grant
Detroit Free Press

1972
John Matthews
Washington Star
2020 Awards Judges

Jenny Abamu
former WAMU reporter

Larry Abramson
The University of Montana

Eva-Marie Ayala
The Dallas Morning News

Bethany Barnes
Tampa Bay Times

Dan Berrett
The Chronicle of Higher Education

Lauren Camera
U.S. News & World Report

Alvin Chang
The Guardian

Timothy Chipp
Abilene Reporter-News

Rose Clotta
EdSource

John Woodrow Cox
The Washington Post

Trish Crain
Al.com

Martha Dalton
WABE

Stephanie Daniel
KUNC

Julie Deardorff
Northwestern University

Cheryl Devall
Freelance

Nichole Dobo
The Hechinger Report

Margaret Downing
The Houston Press

Erin Einhorn
NBC News

Ron Feemster
Florida SouthWestern State College

Ben Felder
The Frontier

Maritza L. Felix
Freelance

Emmanuel Felton
BuzzFeed News

Deirdre Fernandes
The Boston Globe

Kent Fischer
National Center for Teacher Residencies

Ron French
Bridge Magazine

Lee Gaines
Illinois Public Media

Jason Gonzales
Chalkbeat Colorado

Larry Gordon
EdSource

Joe Grimm
Michigan State University School of Journalism

Cornelia Grumman
Robert R. McCormick Foundation

Reeve Hamilton
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Beth Hawkins
The 74

Sara Hebel
Open Campus

John Hechinger
Bloomberg News

Lori Higgins
Chalkbeat Detroit

Mark Horvit
University of Missouri School of Journalism

Laura Isensee
Freelance

Scott Jaschik
Inside Higher Ed

David Jesse
Detroit Free Press

David Kidwell
Better Gov

Rebecca Klein
Freelance

Mila Koumpilova
Chalkbeat Chicago

Katherine Lewis
Freelance

Celia Llopis-Jepsen
KCUR and Kansas News Service

Annie Ma
Associated Press

Rob Manning
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Kate McGee
The Texas Tribune

Claire McInerny
KUT News

Dale Mezzacappa
Chalkbeat Philadelphia

Dan Mihalopoulos
WBEZ

Robert Moore
El Paso Matters

Kaitlin Mulhere
Money

Anita Narayan
U.S. News & World Report

Mary Niederberger
Freelance

Patrick O’Donnell
The 74

Denise-Marie Ordway
Journalist’s Resource

Justin Pope
Longwood University

Jacqueline Rabe Thomas
The Connecticut Mirror

Diane Rado
Florida Phoenix

Sascha Raiyn
WDET

Mónica Rhyyn
Chalkbeat

Alan Richard
Southern Regional EducaBoard

Dana Roberson
PBS NewsHour

Gail Robinson
Freelance

Brian M. Rosenthal
The New York Times

Jennifer Ruark
The Chronicle of Higher Education

Gabrielle Russon
Orlando Sentinel

Bob Sacha
Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY

Melissa Sanchez
ProPublica Illinois

Claudio Sanchez
NPR (retired)

Linda Shaw
Solutions Journalism Network

Kayleigh Skinner
Mississippi Today

Sara Solovitch
Searchlight New Mexico

Eric Stirgus
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Ki Sung
MindShift

Aliyya Swaby
ProPublica

Melissa Tabaoda
Freelance

Kenneth Terrell
AARP

Greg Toppo
Author/Journalist

PEG Tyre
EGF Accelerator

Marlon A. Walker
Clarion Ledger

Patrick Wall
Chalkbeat Newark

Bradley Wilson
National Journalism Education Association

Denise Zapata
EdSource

Bill Zeeble
KERA

Emmeline Zhao
The 74
America is a growing multiracial and multiethnic society, and all of us deserve the freedom to thrive, a freedom that is fueled by opportunity, justice and a voice in our democracy. Ensuring we all have the freedom to thrive requires not only addressing the immediate crises affecting us—COVID-19 and its economic fallout, racial injustice, the climate crisis and threats to our democracy—but also creating the just and equitable conditions necessary to ensure economic and educational opportunity for all.

A “freedom to thrive” agenda requires bold action to promote an economy that works for all, including healthcare as a right; a livable wage and retirement security; the ability to form and join a union; and great public schools and affordable, world-class higher education. To build a vibrant democracy, we must champion civil rights and be actively anti-racist in all aspects of our lives. This means protecting unfettered access to voting and creating safe, welcoming and healthy environments and communities for all—regardless of who you are, who you love, your gender identity, your immigration status, how you worship or where you live. Young people have been deeply affected by the crises gripping our country; schools must be supported and well-resourced to address students’ trauma and meet their social and emotional needs, to ensure their developmental and academic recovery. Educators, healthcare professionals and public employees play a key role in building culturally responsive and actively anti-racist communities for our own families, neighbors and everyone we serve.

With President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and many in Congress, we now have partners in working to achieve this agenda. We will do our part through our work in education, healthcare, public service and the labor movement. The AFT will fight for the freedom to thrive for our members, our families and our diverse communities—by caring, fighting, showing up, teaching and voting. Together we can accomplish what is impossible to do alone.
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