CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Deadlines:
Submission: by 11:59 p.m. EST on Friday, July 13, 2018
Notification: by 5:00 p.m. EST on Friday, August 10, 2018

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS
All proposals must be submitted electronically* no later than 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 13, 2018. Submission link:  https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018SourcesConference

*No other submission formats will be accepted.

GENERAL CALL:
The 13th Annual Sources of Urban Educational Excellence Conference committee invites proposals on all topics related to the theme of It’s About Visibility: Narratives, Critiques, and Collective Understanding in Urban Education.

(Continued on next page)
We are asking people to ponder the role of visibility in urban education. For the purposes of this conference, we are expanding the definition of visibility to include a focus on action, specifically about making the larger local-meets-national-meets-local conversations happening in urban education visible to all involved. At the same time, visibility-as-action gives policymakers and advocates access to direct narratives so that they can take informed actions toward sustainable solutions.

Recent movements such as the Black Lives Matter movement, the #MeToo movement, and Parkland Survivor’s movement, have rendered visible the hardships of marginalized and/or previously silenced communities. Simultaneously, recent conversations in urban education around issues like gerrymandering, school safety, teacher quality, and accountability have both highlighted and, at the same time, disguised important conversations in urban education. Through making these recent conversations in popular culture and urban education visible, we can see how they share the weight of local narratives with society as a whole and visa versa. In the same way that the problems of urban education overlap and span institutional borders, the 2018 Sources Conference seeks to serve as the place where individual I’s turn into visible We’s. This year’s theme charges us to make visible narratives, critiques, and collective understanding in urban education so that we move beyond being seen to informed action, research and scholarship.

CONFERENCE STRANDS

Individuals or groups proposing a session for this year’s conference should identify one of the following strands for the presentation and select a presentation format:

- **Narratives:** Proposals sent to this strand convey a challenge in urban education that has not received the deserved attention or action and presents the stories of how professionals or community members worked collectively to find and implement solutions. Submissions to this strand will focus on elevating and advancing the transparency, perspective, and scope of urban education narratives that don’t get a lot of attention. Presenters will push the boundaries of what it means to critically, authentically represent the lived experiences of urban education actors such as teachers, students, administrators, and families. While critiquing narratives and their portrayal may be necessary, presenters of this strand should focus on supporting genuine visibility.

- **Critiques:** The proposals in this strand challenge current “solutions” in urban education that reinforce misleading or inaccurate notions about students in urban education or the systems that halt progress in urban education. Submissions to this strand will focus on critical understandings of visibility. This strand provides a critical space to challenge
inauthentic depictions of urban education and urban communities with solution oriented research, programing, and strategies. We seek proposals aimed at bringing attention and solutions to misleading mechanisms that intentionally veil authentic representation.

- **Collective Understanding**: Proposals in this strand bridge the gap between a range of solutions in urban education. Submissions to this strand will focus on the intersection of fields serving urban education. Presenters will highlight sustainable solutions that bridge the relationships between educational, community, industry and personal silos. Whereas research and policies often offer unilateral responses to complex problems, this strand will advance the discourse of effective, collective solutions. Proposals that identify emerging and/or current collaboration and intersections will be given priority.

**FORMATS:**

- **Conversations with Community** are designed to create spaces for open dialogue among participants on a topic that connects to or supports excellence in urban education. Presenters will briefly frame the topic and then facilitate a large group discussion. Consequently, presenters should be skilled in facilitating dialogue. These sessions focus less on presenting a single person’s ideas and more on connecting perspectives from a variety of participants. *Allotted time: 60 minutes*

- **Focus15s** are brief presentations that focus on a specific topic. Each Focus15 presenter will have 15 minutes to present ideas that connect to or support excellence in urban education. These straight-to-the-point talks are meant to inspire questions and dialogue. *Allotted time: 60 minutes*

- **Focus45s** focus on the ideas and perspectives of a single presenter. These extended presentations are meant to introduce the audience to innovative ideas that connect to or support excellence in urban education. **Slots for Focus45s are extremely limited.** *Allotted time: 60 minutes*

- **Workshops** offer a hands-on/minds-on opportunity to focus on a specific topic or idea that connects to or supports excellence in urban education. Sessions are designed to create spaces for direct engagement with the topics in creative and innovative ways. Sessions should provide participants with opportunities to explore the topic and engage in valuable discussions. **Slots for workshops are extremely limited.** *We anticipate scheduling no more than four workshops for this year’s conference. Allotted time: 120 minutes*
ABOUT THE CRIM CENTER
Founded in 1996, the Alonzo A. Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence (CUEE) at GSU is an innovation lab designed to accelerate, incubate, and amplify innovative solutions to some of the most pressing challenges facing urban schools and communities in the Southeast. Through its programs and research, the faculty and staff work to optimize the life opportunities of children and families in urban communities and ensure the availability of a prosperous and equitable school environment. Furthermore, the CUEE is inspiring a national conversation on educational excellence and helping to shape the national agenda for urban education. For more information about the CUEE, please visit our website: http://crim.education.gsu.edu/

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Please direct questions to Dana Salter:
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