

## Reimagining Civic Learning from an Equity Lens

How can we reimagine civic learning with equity in mind? How do we take the movement beyond politics and the classroom to develop high-quality, experiential opportunities for young people that prepare them for life as a community member and citizen? Leaning on examples from the past and the present, add to the conversation about youth voice, community organizing, and public education that leads to engagement in civic life.

### Maribel Duran

**Assistant Director for Strategy and Operations  
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Maribel Duran is the Assistant Director for Strategy and Operations with the Education & Society Program at the Aspen Institute. In this role, Maribel oversees the strategy and operations portfolios which includes the financial, people and culture, and organizational effectiveness work. Maribel also serves as co-chair of the Institute's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council.

Previously, Maribel served eight years under the Obama Administration at the U.S. Department of Education, first as Special Assistant to former U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and later, as Chief of Staff for the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, Chief of Staff for the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, and member of the White House Council on Women and Girls Federal Taskforce.

Maribel began her career at the Chicago Public Schools helping to advance the school district's mission of providing a high-quality education to the city's children. She holds a bachelor of English Language and Literature *magna cum laude* and an honorary doctorate in education from Southern New Hampshire University. She sits on the Board of Trustees for Southern New Hampshire University and the Institute on Educational Leadership's Board. She has been featured in national conferences, including a Ted Talk, for her continued commitment to diversity, gender and education equity, and social justice.

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**Roscoe Jones, Sr.**  
**Civil Rights Activist and Founder**  
**The Freedom '64 Project**



Roscoe Jones, Sr. is the founder of Freedom 64. Previously, Mr. Jones was President of Youth Chapter NAACP during the 1964 Freedom Summer, attended Freedom School of Meridian, and worked in the local COFO office on voter registration with activists Michael Schwerner, James E. Chaney and Andrew Goodman. He served as cochair of the state-wide Freedom Summer Youth Convention at Meridian in 1964. A veteran civil rights activist since the '60s, Mr. Jones marched from Selma to Montgomery on "Bloody Sunday"; participated in the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party; and was of the first black students to integrate Meridian Junior College in 1965. Mr. Jones is the recipient of numerous awards, most recently he was recognized by the Meridian Star for the 2012 "Unsung Hero Award."

He has spoken at numerous churches, community groups, and schools, including Stanford University. Mr. Jones currently lives in Meridian, Mississippi.

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**Ted McConnell**  
**Executive Director**  
**Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools**



Ted McConnell serves as Executive Director of the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools (CMS) a coalition of national organizations committed to improving the quality and quantity of civic learning in our nation's schools.

Prior to joining the Campaign, McConnell directed the Campaign to Promote Civic Education, an initiative of the Center for Civic Education. McConnell also served as Co - Coordinator of the Congressional Conferences on Civic Education 2003-2006.

Ted serves on boards of directors or advisory boards for Citizenship Counts, iCivics, the Walter and Leonore Annenberg Presidential Learning Center at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.

McConnell has been involved in the political, governmental and non-profit sectors for over forty years. Prior positions include Congressional Affairs Assistant to the United States Secretary of Commerce and Assistant to the Chairman and Director of Marketing and Events for the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution.

Ted was the recipient of the 2018 Isidore Starr Award for Excellence in Civic and Law-Related Education from the American Bar Association.

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**Kelly Leahy Whitney**  
**Chief Product and Partnerships Officer**  
**iCivics**



Dr. Kelly Leahy Whitney joined iCivics in 2015 as our Chief Product and Partnerships Officer.

A unique professional bridging research, development, and production in educational media and educational technology, Dr. Whitney's career combines digital and traditional development/production with learning research. She has developed and produced broadcast and digital media for companies including PBS, Nickelodeon, and Discovery Communications.

Dr. Whitney holds master's and doctoral degrees in education from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University. She received the prestigious Fred Rogers Memorial Scholarship for her dissertation research in early childhood media. She has collaborated on a variety of studies involving learning, technology, and cultural studies at Harvard University, MIT, and PBS.

Dr. Whitney spends most of her free time with her young daughter, husband, and the world's friendliest dog. She serves as a Committee Chair on the Board of Directors for the National Association for Media Literacy Education. She has a range of nerdy hobbies including collecting WWII cookbooks.

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