

# CHALLENGING RACISM BRIEF:

## Our Work in Education



Challenging Racism is a 501(c)3 organization that empowers citizens to disrupt racism in themselves and their community through an intensive curriculum of facilitated conversations about race. Using stories, facts, and local history to dispel racial myths, we teach listening skills and how to hold the difficult conversations necessary to advance systems-level change.

### For TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

We provide the skills to navigate and lead courageous and safe discussions about race in the classroom.

*Sample of recent programs delivered to teachers include:*

- **Communities In Schools of NOVA (CIS NOVA)** funded a *Building Understanding* program for its coordinators and staff in Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax Public Schools. (2020-2021)
- **Arlington Public Schools** funded *Learning How Workshops* for more than 20 cohorts of 16 participants each for 11 sessions. Open to teachers, parents, and community leaders. (2004–2019)
- **National Education Association (NEA)** co-funded 3 cohorts of 16 teachers each in Nebraska to participate in the 11-session *Learning How Workshops* over 2 years. (2018-2020). (New 2022)
- **Nebraska State Education Association\*** funded teachers for our intensive 5-day *Learning to Lead Workshop* to become facilitators in Challenging Racism curricula. (2019)
- **Ford's Theatre Education Department** funded an adapted *Getting Started Workshop* to train DC-area teachers who brought students to productions of *12 Angry Men* and *Fences* (2019)

### For PARENTS

Extend Diversity, Inclusion & Equity values to the broader school community through sessions for parents to reinforce skills at home.

*Recent programs delivered to parents include:*

- **Arlington Public Schools** funded *Learning How* for 20+ cohorts for schools across the county. (2004 - current)
- **County Council of PTAs (CCPTA)** hosted a *Getting Started* for PTA Presidents from all APSVA schools (2020)
- **PTA Discovery Elementary** funded a *Building Understanding* series for joint Discovery - Barcroft ES (2021)
- **HB Woodlawn Secondary School** Parent Advisory Committee hosted a *Building Understanding* (2021-2022)
- **Mothers of North Arlington** hosted multiple sessions of *Getting Started*, including *School Segregation & Racial Inequity in NOVA*, *How to Talk to Your Kids About Race*, and *Racial Microaggressions* for its members. (2016-2022)

### For STUDENTS

Cultivate Youth Leaders for social & racial equity actions through *Learning How for Secondary Students*, our adapted secondary curriculum. This is a stand-alone module that can also be easily integrated in English, History, Government, or Sociology courses. 7 Units / 1 Quarter, 45 min each.

*Recent programs delivered to students include:*

- **Arlington Public Schools.** *Learning How for Secondary Students* at H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program, Arlington, 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, Sociology. (2019)
- **Encore Theater.** Student education session for “Flip the Script” Program focused on “redlining” and achievement gaps for students of color. (2019)
- **Mothers of North Arlington** hosted a session on Racial Microaggressions for parents and their teens. (2022)

#### Insightful Questions for School Communities

- Can your teachers confidently lead and navigate discussions about race in the classroom?
- Is your school community equipped to support confident identity development of all children, including bi-racial children and children of color?
- Are your students visibly grappling with news of racial injustices and its implications on our community?
- Are your administrators prepared to confidently address racial conflicts that arise within the school community to a constructive outcome?
- Is your school intentional about teaching inclusive history?
- For affluent schools, is your community working to understand the inherent advantages and responsibilities it may have to help address racial inequities in underserved areas?
- Does your institution need impactful ways to demonstrate your school's commitment to the values of diversity and inclusion?

**Join the Conversation, Be Part of the Change**

Challenging Racism through Stories and Conversations

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