



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SXSW EDU® SHOWCASES FEATURED AND POLICY FORUM SPEAKERS AND NEW PERFORMANCES FOR MARCH EVENT

Topics Highlight Diverse Teacher Voices, Role of the 2020 Election on Education, and Breaking Down Stereotypes

December 18, 2019, Austin, Texas — The SXSW EDU® Conference & Festival announced today newly added Featured and Policy Forum sessions and speakers for the March 2020 event. Many of the topics featured bring together highly respected educators, the role of the 2020 election on education, and pedagogical best practices.

As part of SXSW EDU's Featured Session program, educator voice is elevated through Masters of Practice. This session features trailblazing practitioners **Christopher Emdin, Esther Wojcicki, Jessica Lahey, and Michael Kleba**. Currently in the classroom, these teachers (featured by outlets such as *The New York Times, Forbes, NBC, The Washington Post, TED, Wired, and NPR*) are writing the script for how teachers can impact education in the 21st century. As part of a discussion with **Rose Brock, Daniel Nayeri, Darcie Little Badger, and David Bowles**, they will share how ancient knowledge and epic histories shaped their stories and explore ways that different cultures pass down their stories in Border Crossing & Sacred Stories.

“Throughout the last 10 years, we have worked hard to champion and elevate teacher voice and bring together diverse perspectives on issues that affect education inside and outside of the classroom,” said Greg Rosenbaum, Head of SXSW EDU. “This year, we’re proud to showcase the incredible work of some of our highly respected educators who share their perspective on the practice and pedagogy of teaching and learning. In addition, as we approach the 2020 election, we saw an incredible increase in programming that impacts all of us at a national, state, and local level. We think this year’s program is a true touchstone of what we have been building for the last 10 years and we think our community will be as engaged as ever.”

SXSW EDU

The [Policy Forum](#) features diverse and impactful discussions around critical policy issues in education. This newly released programming is a balance between national and statewide conversations in education. [The Educator Vote: Why it Matters](#) will discuss why 2019 was dubbed “The Education Session” in the Texas Legislature and what’s in store for 2020 and beyond. [Leveraging Policy for Safe and Healthy Schools](#) will feature national organizations that will outline the existing and new school health and safety policies and strategies and their implications. Newly announced programming joins [20 Policy Issues, 50 States: What’s Ahead for 2020](#), will discuss the importance of education to states’ success. Lastly, [Devastating Impact of a 2020 Census Undercount](#) addresses how educators across the country are bracing for a potentially devastating impact on school funding.

SXSW EDU’s [Performance](#) series provides a way to collectively delve into current and sometimes difficult topics that are impacting culture and society. Through the arts, students and teachers can address some of the tough issues they face in an active and healing forum outside the classroom. Performance also provides a platform to give marginalized communities a voice. Some of the newly announced performances feature **Cry Havoc Theater Company**, who will perform a reading of their documentary/verbatim theater piece, *Crossing the Line*, about the humanitarian crisis at the southern border. In a unique performance-lecture **Omar Offendum** will discuss how he’s been able to develop a special blend of hip-hop and Arabic poetry to bridge cultural divides.

For more information on these speakers, programming descriptions and performances, please visit the [SXSW EDU website](#) and for the full list of announced programming please visit the [2020 schedule](#).

About SXSW EDU

Now in its 10th year, the SXSW EDU® Conference & Festival cultivates and empowers a community of engaged stakeholders to advance teaching and learning. The annual four-day event affords registrants open access to engaging sessions, immersive workshops, interactive learning experiences, film screenings, early-stage startups, business opportunities, and networking. SXSW EDU is a component of the South by Southwest® family of conferences and festivals that has grown from 800 to over 8,000 registrants in the last decade. Join the passionate and innovative community at SXSW EDU, March 9-12, 2020 in Austin, Texas. For more information, please visit sxswedu.com.

Press Credentials

Press accreditation for SXSW EDU 2020 is now open at sxswedu.com/press.

Contact

Liz Stein, SXSW EDU Press & Publicity

press@sxswedu.com

512-467-7979