



SXSW EDU® ANNOUNCES EXCITING ARRAY OF FEATURED ONLINE SESSIONS FOR 2021 VIRTUAL EVENT

Bryce Dallas Howard, Kate Robinson, Dr. Michael Sorrell, and Nic Stone Announced as Featured Speakers

January 14, 2021 -- AUSTIN, Texas - [SXSW EDU](#) released the first list of speakers, sessions, and various experiences for the upcoming virtual conference happening from March 9-11, 2021. While this year's event is not taking place in person due to COVID-19 restrictions, SXSW EDU is committed to shining a light on its passionate community who are dedicated to teaching and learning. The interactive virtual conference features exclusive talks, conversations, and events selected with the help of community voting via PanelPicker®, a crowd-sourcing platform. Attendees will have an immersive opportunity to examine matters from **"Equity & Justice"** to **"Work Reimagined"** and hear from prominent voices spanning across fields such as Director, Producer, Actor **Bryce Dallas Howard**, Director of Educational Equity & Diversity for the Rockwood School District **Brittany Hogan**, and **Dr. Michael Sorrell**, President of Paul Quinn College.

SXSW EDU Online has accepted 84 sessions across [Converse, Talk and Work](#) formats, led by experts from around the world. Featured and Talk sessions will highlight discussions on the subjects impacting all education stakeholders while Converse and Work sessions offer participant-led discussion and interactive instructional programs. For this year's event, SXSW EDU content is organized by tracks consisting of **Community, Emerging Tech, Equity & Justice, Global Impact, Media & Public Engagement, Policy & Civil Discourse, Practice & Pedagogy**, and **Work Reimagined**.

"This year's program is filled with content proving more critical to all of us who support teaching and learning," said Ron Reed, Executive Producer, SXSW EDU. "With a more focused set of formats and tracks this year, we have been incredibly impressed with the depth of topic areas that are more relevant than ever in today's education landscape. We are excited for our community to experience each other in a virtual online setting and look forward to being together in Austin when it is safe to do so."

Featured sessions announced today include:

Creating Curricular Partnerships: Nine Muses Lab – A panel with the creators of the Nine Muses Lab, a course at NYU for multi-hyphenate students about what it takes to "make it" and master their craft. Each panelist will share the unique opportunities this curricular partnership presents as a professional artist, education institution, and student. The Lab model adapts to reflect the practice of the artist-teacher's work, the expertise of the students, and the shifting entertainment landscape — an applicable model to any educational setting.

Speakers include:

Bryce Dallas Howard – Director, Producer, Actor Bryce Dallas Howard is a versatile and dynamic talent, both on-screen and behind the camera. Her love of storytelling has led her to create Nine Muses Entertainment and become part of the guest faculty at NYU Tisch Drama.

Nia Farrell – Creator, performer, and Mundane Afrofuturist who focuses on developing new work that celebrates the dreams and stories of Black communities. Nia Farrell is the Development Coordinator and Nine Muses Lab Research Associate for Nine Muses Entertainment.

Rachel Friedman – As head of the NYU Tisch Drama Office of Career Development & Alumni Engagement Rachel Friedman manages new initiatives and programs to support and prepare students and alumni for sustainable careers in the entertainment field. She is also an adjunct professor at NYU Tisch Drama and consults on various projects relating to entertainment and education.

Sir Ken Robinson: Looking Back, Looking Forward - This session will focus on the immense impact Sir Ken Robinson has had on education. It will highlight ways he changed people's views, and lives. And it will underscore ways we can take his legacy forward with renewed passion and creativity — which is what he would hope all of us will do.

Speakers include:

Ted Dintersmith – Ted is an author, filmmaker and philanthropist and focuses on the urgency of reimagining school to keep pace with the tsunami of innovation that is reshaping society. His WhatSchoolCouldBe.org initiative is catalyzing progress at the school, district, and state level across America, and in countries around the globe. His professional career centered on innovation, including being ranked as the top-performing U.S. venture capitalist for the years 1995-1999. In 2012, he was appointed by President Obama to represent the U.S. at the United Nations General Assembly. In 2018, he received the prestigious NEA Friend of Education Award.

Anthony Dunn – Anthony is an acclaimed brand strategist with a gift for creative marketing and a passion for immersive events and experiences. He is Director of Nevergrey, the global head office for his father-in-law, Sir Ken Robinson. Anthony is founder of Imagine If, an initiative inspired by Sir Ken's passionate advocacy of human potential, and is the Former Head of Brand for Bett, the world's largest global education event series.

Kate Robinson – Kate is a writer, speaker, and Director of Nevergrey, the global head office for her father, Sir Ken Robinson. Through Nevergrey, Kate is founder of Imagine If, an initiative inspired by Sir Ken's passionate advocacy of human potential, and she was the founding Editor in Chief and Head of Strategic Operations of HundrED, a Finnish-based initiative designed to seek and share the most inspiring innovations in education globally. Her expertise lies in raising the profile of bold initiatives, with a particular focus on start-ups, and building strong

partnerships with purpose. A patron of Action for Children's Arts, her passion lies in engaging youth voice, and she was awarded a thought leadership award for Outstanding Contribution to Education Empowerment.

Empathy in Equity: Author & Educator – Author Nic Stone & Director of Educational Equity & Diversity, Brittany Hogan discuss their love of literature, empathy and equity and how these topics play a role in classrooms and schools. Both ladies give their individual and collective thoughts and ideas about how diverse literature can change the hearts and minds of students. How great books allow all people to see themselves and others. Both give tips and suggestions on how to embed these books into all curriculums.

Speakers include:

Brittany Hogan – A native of Chicago with a Bachelor of Art in Psychology from Hampton University and a Master of Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis. Brittany Hogan serves as the Director of Educational Equity & Diversity for the Rockwood School District in the St. Louis region.

Nic Stone – Author Nic Stone was born and raised in GA, the only thing she loves more than an adventure is a good story about one. After graduating from Spelman College, she worked extensively in teen mentoring and lived in Israel for a few years before returning to the US to write full-time. Growing up with a wide range of cultures, religions, and backgrounds, Stone strives to bring these diverse voices and stories to her work.

How Universities Can Power the Future of Work – As the threat of COVID-19 and a looming recession disrupt the nation's higher education system, some colleges are defying the drop in enrollment by collaborating with employers. With a renewed focus on workplace-ready skills and reaching non-traditional learners, colleges like Paul Quinn College and Southern New Hampshire University are playing a more active role in upskilling employees to stay competitive in a post-pandemic economy.

Speakers include:

Dr. Paul LeBlanc – President of Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). Since 2003, under Dr. LeBlanc's leadership, SNHU has grown from 2,800 students to over 170,000 learners and is the largest nonprofit provider of online higher education in the country.

Dr. Michael Sorrell – The longest-serving President in the 148-year history of Paul Quinn College. During his 13 years of leadership, Paul Quinn has become a national movement for its efforts to remake all of higher education to become more responsive to student and societal needs.

To learn more about the incredible lineup of programming across the other formats, please visit [our website](#). To stay updated on the latest announcements from SXSW EDU, find out about the newest speakers added to the virtual community for the 2021 conference and learn how to register for the event, visit <https://www.sxswedu.com/>.

About SXSW EDU:

The SXSW EDU® Conference & Festival cultivates and empowers a community of engaged stakeholders to advance teaching and learning. The annual 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 Online, March 9-11, 2021. For more information, please visit [sxswedu.com](https://www.sxswedu.com).

Press Credentials:

The deadline for press accreditation is Wednesday, February 10, 2021. To register, please go to [sxswedu.com/press](https://www.sxswedu.com/press).

Contact:

Liz Stein, SXSW EDU Press & Publicity
press@sxswedu.com
512-467-7979