



SXSW EDU® Celebrates International Women's Day

The conference partners with Edmentum and Special Olympics to host a series of talks on gender equity and education

February 16, 2022, Austin, TEXAS – In honor of International Women's Day on Tuesday, March 8, today South by Southwest EDU® announces a special lineup of talks on gender equity and education to be featured at the upcoming 2022 Conference & Festival. Presented by [Edmentum](#) and [Special Olympics](#), the event will welcome speakers such as **Elisa Villanueva Beard**, CEO of Teach For America, students and Special Olympics athletes, **Elena Chacon** and **Daya Barnes**, and co-founders of Rosa Rebellion, **Virginia Cumberbatch** and **Meagan Harding**, to discuss the power of storytelling and the need to break down biases.

"A major aspect of progressing education is ensuring that women and girls around the world have access to it. At SXSW EDU, we are always striving to establish a space where people from a variety of communities can come together and exchange ideas that will create sustainable solutions to that task," said Julia Shatilo, Programming Director, SXSW EDU. "That's why we are so excited to host this series on International Women's Day with the help of Edmentum and Special Olympics and to be joined by such inspiring guests who seek to uplift equity and inclusion every day."

Taking place at the legendary Austin music venue Antone's on March 8, the collection of talks consists of thought-provoking programming and networking opportunities open to all SXSW EDU attendees. They will have the chance to explore ways to forge greater opportunities for girls and elevate teaching and learning through empowerment. Events will run from 6:00pm to 10:00pm and include:

- **One Woman's Vision: the Next Generation** – **Elena Chacon** and **Daya Barnes**, both Special Olympics athletes and students at Hendrickson High School in Pflugerville, Texas, join fellow students and Special Olympics partners **Melchi Suresh** and **Kennedy Huschka**, for a conversation about their work as the Unified Generation and how they are defining the future of Eunice Kennedy Shriver's mission to open doors for all people with intellectual disabilities.
- **Break the Bias: Creating Opportunities for Girls** – **Michelle Geddes**, [We Can Learn](#) Chairwoman & Regional Vice President, leads a discussion about Edmentum's We Can Learn Foundation and its effort to positively impact women's growth and education, particularly through the #breakthebias campaign.
- **#BreakingBias to Elevate the Teaching Profession** – **Elisa Villanueva Beard**, CEO of Teach For America, tackles the topic of why the critical profession of teaching is so

underpaid and the need to continue building a community of educators that better reflects and serves America's diverse student population.

- **The Power of Story to Teach/Transform/Tell Truths** – [Rosa Rebellion](#) Co-founders **Virginia Cumberbatch** and **Meagan Harding** come together with **Dr. Sylvia Rousseau**, advocate and Professor Emeritus at The University of Southern California, to share multi-generational insight on the connection between collective memory and racial justice. They invite attendees to participate in an examination of how we can all take part in an allied approach to challenging oppressive systems and narratives in order to strengthen education.

Press Credentials:

To register, please go to sxswedu.com/press.

About SXSW EDU:

The SXSW EDU® Conference & Festival is a reflection of the world's most critical social issues as seen through the lens of education. This year's event will bring together the learner, the practitioner, the entrepreneur, and the visionary to share their groundbreaking stories, tackle complex issues, and build reimagined paths forward. As a community of diverse people who are united around a like-minded vision for the future, SXSW EDU serves as a place for attendees to renew their purpose in practice from both a personal and professional perspective. It is a place to reinforce the core principles of teaching and learning as well as an opportunity to express your creativity and passion for education. 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 7-10, 2022.

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