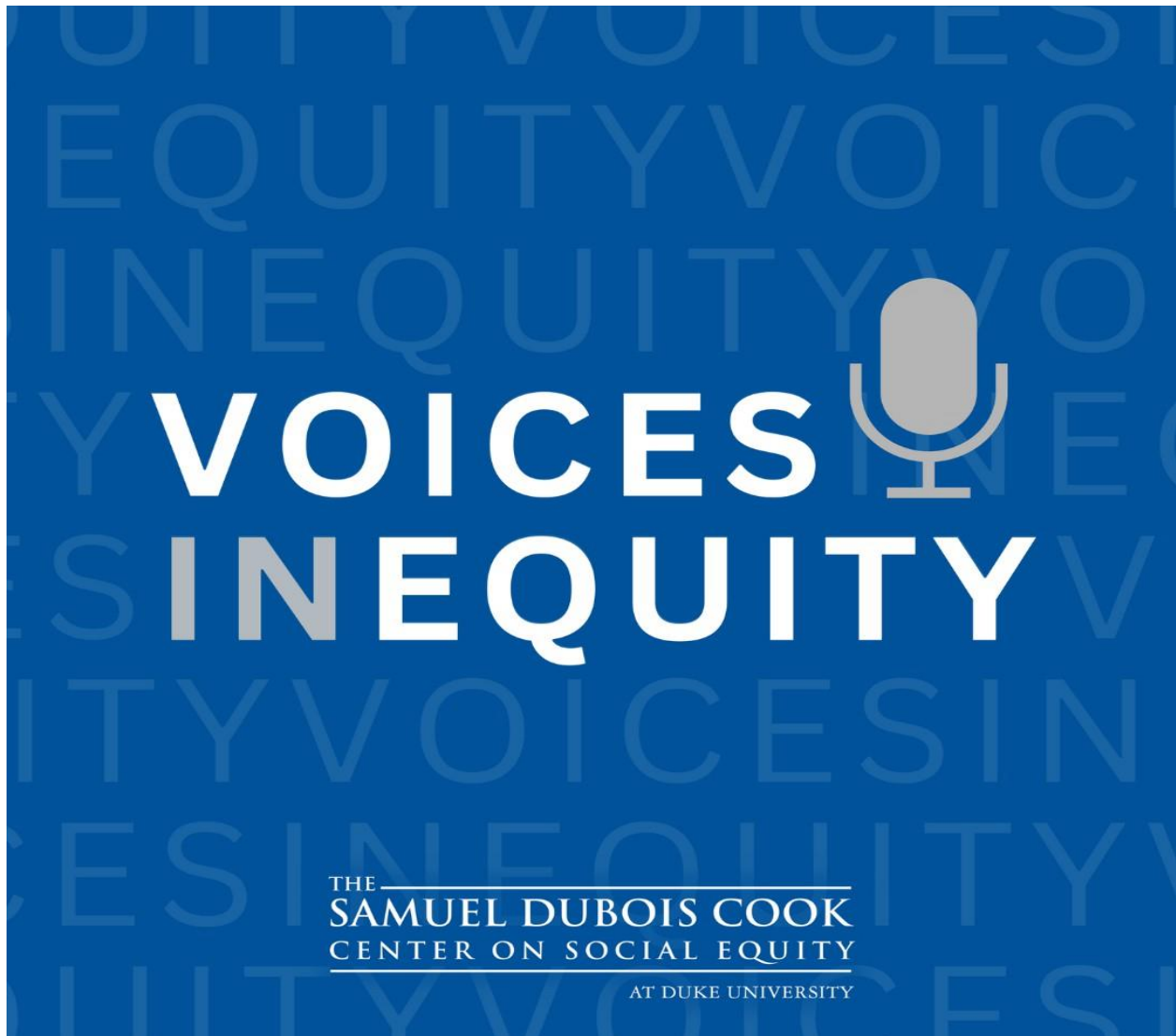


Voices In Equity: Episode 12 Guide

Podcast Episode Guide: [The Vision Behind the Aaron Young Scholars Summer Research Institute](#)

Hosted by: The Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity at Duke University



Listen here: <https://socialequity.duke.edu/media/podcasts/>

Guests:

- Dr. William A. “Sandy” Darity Jr., *Founding Director of the Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity at Duke University*
- Dr. Iwinosa Idahor, *Executive Director for Equity and Professional Development, Durham Public Schools*
- Dr. Daniel Kelvin Bullock, *Deputy Director of Educational Programs at we are (working to extend anti-racist education)*
- Dr. Gwendolyn Wright, *Director of Strategic Initiatives and Collaborations at the Cook Center*
- Ms. Kennedy Ruff, *Program Coordinator and Associate in Research at the Cook Center*

Episode Focus: The transformative impact of the Hank & Billye Suber Aaron Young Scholars Summer Research Institute.

Resources to Explore:

- [The Hank & Billye Suber Aaron Young Scholars Summer Research Institute](#): The Aaron Young Scholars Summer Research Institute is a program that provides high school students enrolled in Durham Public Schools (DPS) with training to enhance their writing, research, and presentation skills.
- [Durham Public Schools Equity Affairs](#): The Durham Public Schools Office of Equity Affairs was established in 2017 with the mission of ensuring that students experience educational equity in grades pre-K-12 regardless of race or ethnicity.
- [We are](#): we are collaborates with children, families, and educators to build anti-racist, culturally affirming learning spaces that dismantle systemic racism in schools and beyond.

Overview of Topics:

- Engaging high school students with issues of equity and justice.
- Overcoming systemic barriers and historical inequities.
- Developing public school teachers.
- Creating collaborative efforts and university partnerships.

As You Listen:

- Contemplate how early exposure to equity and social justice topics, especially through programs like the Hank & Billye Aaron Young Scholars Summer Research Institute, shapes young minds and prepares students for academic and professional futures.
- Consider the power of representation in education, particularly how seeing educators and researchers who look like them can inspire students to pursue higher education and research careers.
- Reflect on the importance of community partnerships, such as those between the Cook Center and Durham Public Schools, in creating programs that support historically marginalized students and expose them to new topics and opportunities.

Engage Further:

- Explore opportunities to create similar research programs in other communities, or advocate for the replication of this model in your local school district.
- Attend public forums or policy discussions that focus on educational equity and how research can inform policy changes.
- Share this episode of "Voices in Equity" with educators, students, and community members to raise awareness of the value of programs that foster social equity research and student empowerment.
- Follow and engage with the Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity on social media platforms to stay updated on their initiatives and find more ways to get involved.

Key Discussion Points:

The Foundation of the Aaron Young Scholars Summer Research Institute:

- Dr. Darity and Dr. Bullock discuss the initial inspiration and founding of the institute, emphasizing the critical role of Durham Public Schools in the collaboration.
- The program was born out of a shared vision of educating high school students on equity and social justice issues.

Impact of the Program on Students and Educators:

- Dr. Bullock reflects on how students naturally engage with issues of fairness and justice, noting that the program enhances their ability to advocate for equity.
- Dr. Idahor highlights how the program aligns with Durham Public Schools' strategic focus on the whole child and supports social and emotional development.
- Teachers benefit from the program by gaining professional development and new tools for engaging students in social equity topics, which they bring back to their classrooms.

Student Voices and Community Engagement:

- Ms. Ruff shares her personal journey from student to program coordinator, illustrating how the program has evolved to inspire more students to engage deeply with social equity issues.
- Students now come in with more awareness, driven by social media, and use the tools learned in the program to influence their schools and communities.

The Importance of Policy and Advocacy:

- Dr. Bullock emphasizes the program's role in connecting students' research to real-world policy advocacy, encouraging students to see the long-term impact of their work on society.

Conclusion:

- The panelists emphasized the significance of early education in social equity, the role of representation, and the power of community partnerships in shaping the next generation of scholars.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do community partnerships, like the one between Durham Public Schools and the Cook Center, create unique opportunities for historically marginalized students?
2. Why is it important to teach high school students about social equity and research? What are the long-term benefits of this exposure?
3. How does representation in academia and research affect students from marginalized communities? How can programs ensure that students see themselves reflected in their educators and mentors?
4. In what ways has social media influenced students' awareness and engagement with social equity topics before they enter programs like the Aaron Young Scholars Summer Research Institute?
5. How can this program's model be replicated in other communities? What resources and partnerships are necessary to ensure its success?

Cook Center Website: socialequity.duke.edu

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