The mission of the Worcester Education Collaborative is to advance excellence and equity in education for all Worcester Public School students.

WEC envisions a transformational education community that enables all Worcester Public School students to achieve their full potential.
Worcester Education
Equity Roundtable (WEER)

WEER is a coalition of partners—colleges, universities, cultural organizations, nonprofits, businesses, youth, and families—working to align key programs, outreach, and advocacy efforts with a commitment to equity for historically marginalized people in the PreK-12 public education system in the City of Worcester.

The Roundtable is currently focused on cultivating a community-district partnership with the new Superintendent of Schools to promote excellence and equity in Worcester’s K-12 education system. Phase one of this work involves supporting the Superintendent’s transition to the district, laying the groundwork for a new strategic vision, and developing a shared community-district learning ecosystem to build capacity for fostering student-centered, equitable environments.
WEC has a well-earned reputation as a knowledgeable contributor to the work of education in Worcester. WEC tackles issues by organizing regular events and producing resources to arm the public, along with state and local leaders, with information about key education equity issues. Some of our work in this area includes:

- 3 Community briefings on the WPS budget and effective district leadership
- Co-hosting a Worcester School Committee debate
- Contributing to the development of a Family Funding Toolkit
- Hosting the public education module of the Leadership Worcester program
- Running 6 sets of our Understanding Trauma Sensitive Practices training
Funded by the AbbVie Foundation, WEC’s Reading Together program reaches roughly 1,300 children at 7 Worcester elementary schools each year.

Students and families engage in reading activities and receive a selection of new, high-interest books.

During the Summer months, Reading Together distributed 11,000 books—intended to hedge learning loss during the school break.

Made possible by a generous contribution from abbvie
Woo-Labs

Led by WEC, Woo-Labs is a network of partners advancing educational and racial equity by increasing their capacity to provide high-quality, culturally responsive, project-based learning in out-of-school time.

Woo-Labs’ targets K-6 students experiencing persistent gaps in opportunity and achievement. WEC supports programs through professional development, assistance implementing a shared measurement-for-improvement data system, and the provision of a college student intern.
# Worcester Education Collaborative

## Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title and Affiliations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kim Davenport</strong></td>
<td>Chair, Managing Director, Edwards Street Childcare Services</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Greg Byrne</strong></td>
<td>Treasurer, Public Relations Specialist, Harvard-Pilgrim Health Care</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Allison Chisolm Hansen</strong></td>
<td>Secretary, Founder, Choice Words/Chisolm &amp; Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Linda Carre Looft</strong></td>
<td>Retired Assistant VP Government Relations, Worcester Polytechnic Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kate Salmon-Robinson</strong></td>
<td>Board of Directors, SALMON Health and Retirement</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lynn Hernandez, Ph.D.</strong></td>
<td>Assistant Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion, UMass Chan Medical School</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alex Richardson</strong></td>
<td>Director of Baseball and Gameday Operations, WooSox</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Joshua Croke</strong></td>
<td>Founder, Action! by Design</td>
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<td><strong>Thomas Del Prete</strong></td>
<td>Retired Professor of Education and Director of the Adam Center for Urban Teaching and School Practice, Clark University</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Deborah Hall</strong></td>
<td>Executive Director, YWCA Central MA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Linda Epping</strong></td>
<td>Consultant, YWCA Central MA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mark Fuller</strong></td>
<td>Senior Sales Representative, Risk Strategies Company</td>
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<td><strong>Tim Garvin</strong></td>
<td>President and CEO, United Way of Central MA</td>
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<td><strong>John Esler</strong></td>
<td>Founder and CEO, Esler Companies / Esler Family Foundation</td>
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<td><strong>Jeannie Esler</strong></td>
<td>President Co-Founder, Esler Family Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alex Guardiola</strong></td>
<td>Vice President of Government Affairs and Public Policy, Worcester Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td><strong>Naomi Sleeper</strong></td>
<td>Director of Productivity, Imperial Distributors</td>
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<td><strong>George Tetler</strong></td>
<td>Partner, Bowditch and Dewey</td>
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<td><strong>Ron Waddell</strong></td>
<td>Founder/Executive Director, Legendary Legacies</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alex Zequeira</strong></td>
<td>Headmaster, St. John’s High School</td>
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<td><strong>Erika Kidder</strong></td>
<td>Senior Project Manager, Liberty Mutual</td>
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<td>Assistant Vice President of Community Relations, Hanover Insurance Group</td>
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<td><strong>Maria Juncos-Gautier</strong></td>
<td>Executive Director, Latino Education Institute</td>
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<td><strong>Karen Pelletier</strong></td>
<td>Executive Vice President, Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td><strong>Elizabeth Wambui</strong></td>
<td>Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Fontaine Brothers</td>
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**WORCESTER EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE**

**13TH ANNUAL MEETING**
WORCESTER EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE'S

13TH ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 26, 2022
Welcome | Jennifer Davis Carey, WEC Executive Director

Advocacy in Action | Kim Davenport, WEC Board Chair

Keynote Address | Ron Walker, Director, COSEBOC
*Ron will share his lessons learned from supporting school leaders serving boys of color, and how relationship building, cultural relevance, and centering the student voice is critical to building an equitable education ecosystem.*

Critical Conversation | Facilitated by Thu Nguyen
*A guided conversation with Dr. Rachel Monárrez, Superintendent of Worcester Public Schools, and Ron Walker.*

Audience Q&A | Facilitated by Thu Nguyen

Closing Remarks | Jennifer Davis Carey, WEC Executive Director
THANK YOU TO OUR
FOUNDATION, CORPORATE, AND PUBLIC GRANT FUNDERS
THAT SUPPORT OUR WORK THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

ALDEN TRUST
CENTENE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
COALITION FOR SCHOOLS EDUCATING BOYS OF
COLOR (COSEBOC)
DCU FOR KIDS FOUNDATION
FLETCHER FAMILY FOUNDATION
FRED HARRIS DANIELS FOUNDATION
FULLER FAMILY FOUNDATION
HOCHE-SCOFIELD FOUNDATION
MA DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION
MA DEPARTMENT OF EARLY EDUCATION AND
CARE
NELLIE MAE EDUCATION FOUNDATION
STODDARD FAMILY FOUNDATION
UNUM
WORCESTER RED SOX

THANK YOU TO OUR
FUNDERS
Kim Davenport brings more than 25 years of experience in early education and non-profit management. Serving as Vice President of Initiatives & Aligned Programs at Edward Street, she leads city-wide birth to 3rd grade alignment efforts for educators, community organizations, and leaders to connect and strengthen the continuum of education for young children and families. She represents Central MA on several state-level advisories to impact policy solutions and systems change. Kim serves as the Chair for the Worcester Education Collaborative’s Board and on the Executive Committee for the Worcester Education Equity Roundtable.
“There is a difference between schooling and education. Schooling too often leads one to compliant thinking, education leads one to liberation.”

- Ron Walker
Educating All Students in the Era of Pandemics
Introduction

Who is Ron Walker?
SOLOMON'S PLAN

A Gift of Education from a Father to His Son

A Memoir by Ron Walker
Being educated is far different from being schooled and one must not consider them synonymous.
Ron as a Young Teacher
Ron as a Principal
My Education Core Tenents

1. All Children and Youth can learn and excel in School. High Expectations

2. Relationships Matter! You can’t teach a student you don’t know

3. Parents/families and communities must be welcomed, honored and invited to join in the education of the children/youth

4. Educators can’t teach the children if they don’t love the children

5. Educators must be qualified, culturally respectful and culturally proficient

6. Schools must have quality resources that engender a positive, caring, academically rigorous learning environment

7. All students will be supported and affirmed in their social, emotional, cultural and academic development by educators, mentors and the Village of caring adults
What Inspired Me to Start COSEBOC?

- My Mother’s encouragement - Mother to Son poem
- Memories of Emmett Till
- Low expectations set for me by my HS Guidance Counselor
- My Education at an HBCU and study of Frederick Douglass
- My Travels to Mississippi in 1967 and experiencing racism
- The growing education gap between boys and young men of color and their white counterparts
- The rising suspension, expulsion and drop of male students of color especially black males, leading to the pathway to prison
- The loss of 2 of Black male students, Wendell Holiday and Kevin Johnson, one to gang violence and one to prison
STANDARDS
THE UNCOMMON CORE
FOR SCHOOLS EDUCATING BOYS OF COLOR
4TH EDITION
COSEBOC was founded in 2007

The Mission of COSEBOC is to advance the social, emotional, cultural and academic development of boys and young men of color.
Pandemics in the Lives of Our Students

- Biological (Covid)
- War and Global conflict
- Educational Inequality
- Mental Health
- Economic
- Dehumanization
- Climate
- Racism, Sexism
- Gun Violence
Evidence of Success in a COSEBOC Awards School
Keedron Bryant - I JUST WANNA LIVE
Rachel H. Monárrez, PhD believes in the possibility of every child, and this approach will guide her daily interactions as the Superintendent for Worcester Public Schools. Beginning her twenty-ninth year of education, Dr. Monárrez holds a vast knowledge base for academic excellence, professional development and collaborative practices. Rachel has served as a teacher, school principal, Director of English Learner Programs and Special Education, Assistant Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent.

As a social justice champion, she works collaboratively with all stakeholders to foster a culture of equity, academic excellence and high expectations for all learners. Dr. Monárrez received a BA, History from UC Irvine, an MA in Education and Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University with an emphasis in Urban Education.

Thu is a proud Vietnamese refugee, an artist, a youth worker, and the first non-binary candidate for Worcester City Council At-Large. Thu came to Worcester at the age of one when their family immigrated to the United States as refugees. Thu grew up in Main South and graduated from Claremont Academy and Clark University.

Over the last decade, Thu has dedicated their career to serving our young people, from facilitating after school programming at the Worcester Youth Center to hiring young people for Recreation Worcester to work at our local parks. Most recently, during COVID-19, Thu helped build Mutual Aid Worcester, which has raised nearly $75,000 to support families in Worcester.
THANK YOU
FOR ATTENDING AND YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR WORK