

SOUTH GWINNETT COUNTY CLUSTER SCHOOLS KICK-OFF!

*Working Together, Winning Together PreK-12!
Each and Every Student!*

South Gwinnett High School | July 25, 2022



Chris Chatmon, CEO
Kingmakers of Oakland

“

Story is medicine which
strengthens and arights
the individual and
the community.

Clarissa Pinkola Estés, Ph.D.

Poet, Author, Post-Trauma Specialist



“

I believe that telling our stories, first to ourselves and then to one another and the world, is a revolutionary act.

It is an act that can be met with hostility, exclusion, and violence.

It can also lead to love, understanding, transcendence, and community.

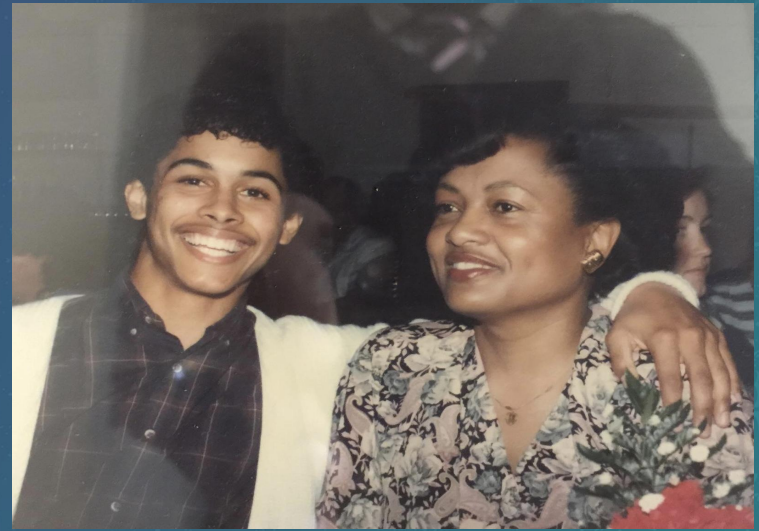
Janet Mock

Writer, Director and Activist

Redefining Realness



My Story





Our Story



[VIDEO LINK](#)

@kingmakersofoakland



Turn & Talk (12MIN)

Prompts:

1. Share your name, school affiliation, role and tenure
2. One thing you heard in the video that resonates with your experience in the South Gwinnett Cluster?
3. Share the name of an African American male the video brings to mind/heart for you? Why?



Who We Are

Kingmakers of Oakland is a social enterprise born out of Oakland Unified Schools District's Office of African American Male Achievement (AAMA).

Kingmakers is committed to transforming education systems and building the capacity of people to design and implement conditions and culture to improve educational and life outcomes for Black students.

@kingmakersofoakland





Leading for Educational Equity in Turbulent Times





White
silence
is
violence

ALL LIVES DON'T MATTER UNTIL
BLACK LIVES MATTER

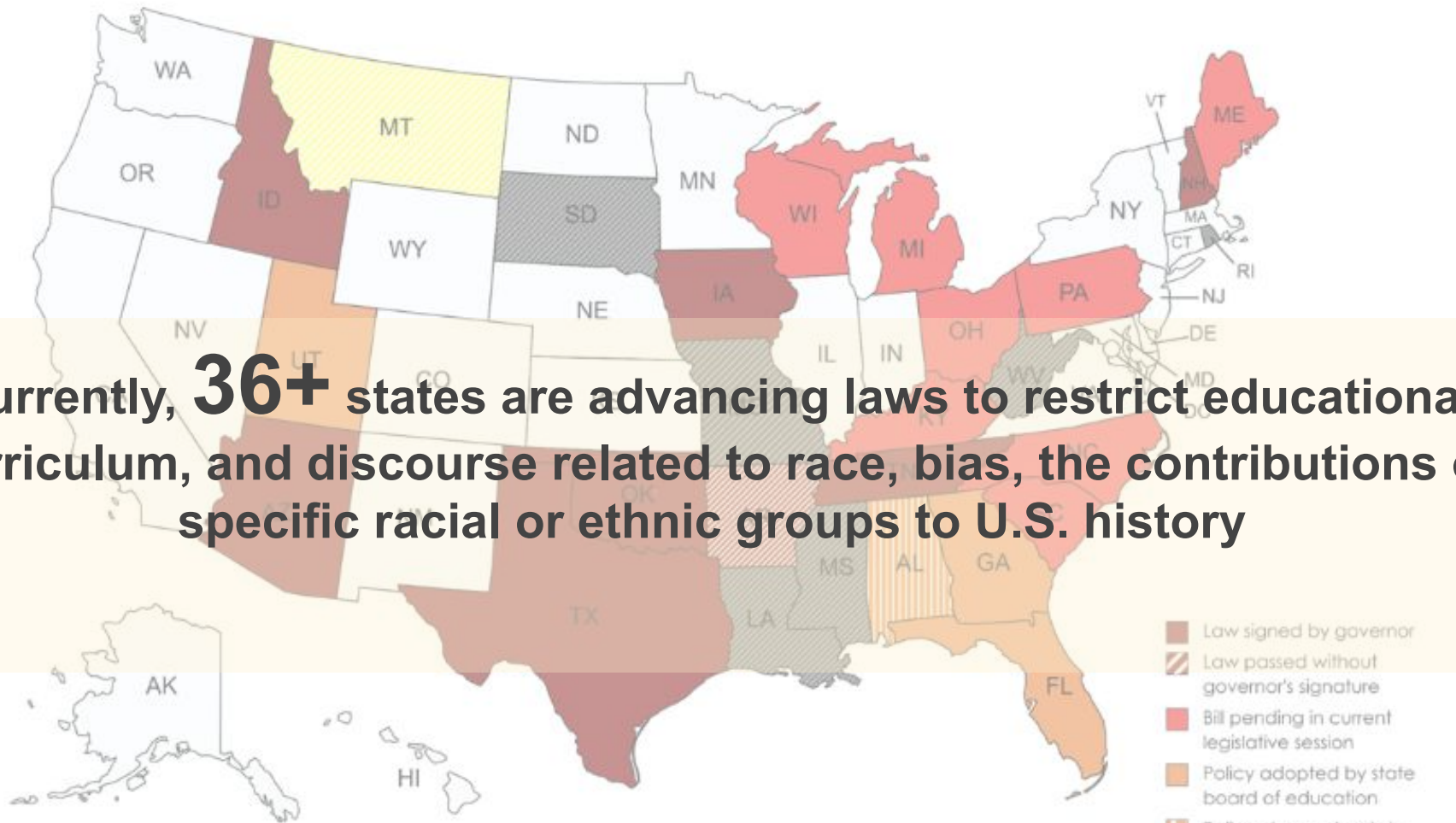
NO
NO

NO
JUSTICE
NO
PEACE

WE DEMAND
POLICE
ACCOUNTABILITY
SILENCE
= CONSENT

State actions on critical race theory

Currently, **36+** states are advancing laws to restrict educational curriculum, and discourse related to race, bias, the contributions of specific racial or ethnic groups to U.S. history



OUR
EXISTENCE
IS NOT
"Inappropriate"

does
your discomfort
have to affect
my life





ROBB
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

Ribbon Honor

Annabelle Rodriguez

Elle Garcia

William Torres Uzilyah Garcia



What's At Stake?

- Our collective humanity.
- Our identity as a multiracial pluralistic, democracy.
- Reconciliation, healing, wellness.
- Our 50+ year struggle to create schools as places of liberated learning and belonging.



We Believe

Creating just, intellectual and culturally-affirming education systems is possible.

Our Efforts Must...

Be Rooted in Unconditional LOVE

Honor Historical Context

Foster Radical Inclusion

Privilege Process Over Products





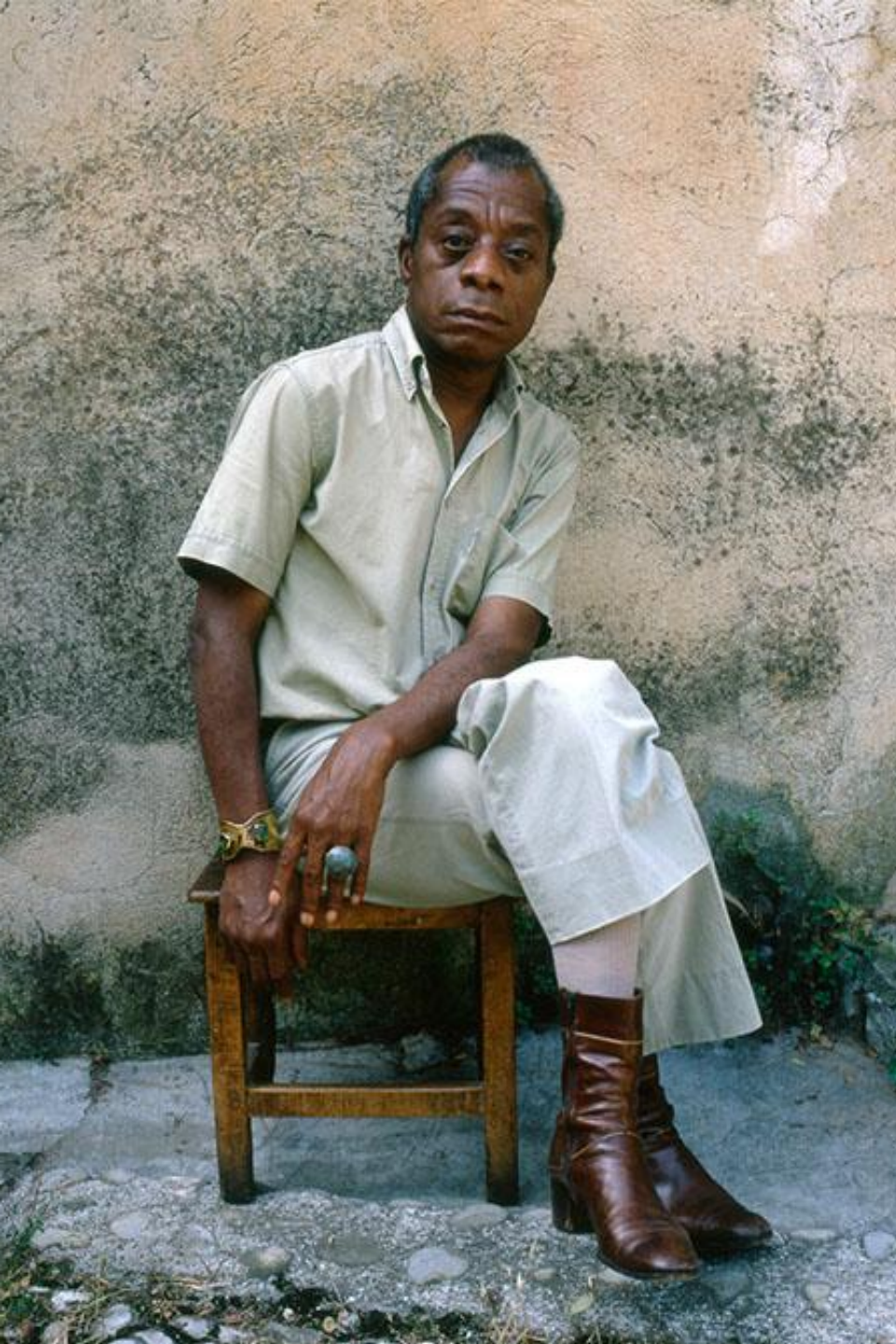
From Problems to the Promise

Liberatory Practices to Foster Equity & Belonging



CORE ASSUMPTION

Our educational system was not created to educate all children equally and to high standards and therefore results in *“inequity by design”*



“

To any citizen of this country
who figures himself as
responsible –
and particularly those of you
who deal with the minds and
hearts of young people –
must be prepared to
“go for broke.”

James Baldwin

“A Talk to Teachers” 1963

We are planting
seeds, that will grow
to be tree's, that will
provide shade for
children we haven't
even met yet.





AAMA SIZZLE REEL



Turn & Talk (5MIN)

What connections are you making to your work and experience?

What questions are coming up for you?



THE POLLUTED POND

School Culture & Conditions Prevent AA Males from Achieving

- Harsh Discipline & Policy/Practices
- Unequipped Teachers
- Biased Curriculum with Negative Framing of AAs
- Discrimination & Criminalization From Negative Media Portrayal

We Clean Up The Pond
By Transforming Adults

- POLICY ADVOCACY
- HIRE & TRAIN TEACHERS
- PARENT ENGAGEMENT
- NARRATIVE CHANGE

And We Inoculate the Fish
By Engaging, Encouraging, and Empowering African American Males



THE HEALTHY POND

School Culture & Conditions Empower AA Males to Achieve

- Youth Voice & Youth Leadership
- Engaged Instruction
- Culturally Relevant Curriculum
- Positive Narrative



Fish Suffering
African American Males Cannot Thrive in Toxic Environments

- HIGH DROPOUT RATES
- LOW READING PROFICIENCY
- SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE

Fish Thriving
African American Males Achieve

- INCREASED SELF-ESTEEM
- IMPROVED LITERACY
- INCREASED GRADUATION RATES

“

Rather than hoping a child is tough enough to endure the insurmountable, we must build resilient places — healthier, safer, more nurturing and just — where all children can thrive.

This is where prevention and healing begin.

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha

Pediatrician, Professor, and Public Health Advocate



“

Systems do not maintain themselves; even our lack of intervention is an act of maintenance. Every structure in every society is upheld by the active or passive assistance of other human beings.

Sonya Renee Taylor



Design Principles

- Design at the Margins
- Start with Yourself
- Cede Power
- Make the invisible VISIBLE
- Create a Conspiracy of Care
- Speak the Future; Design the Future

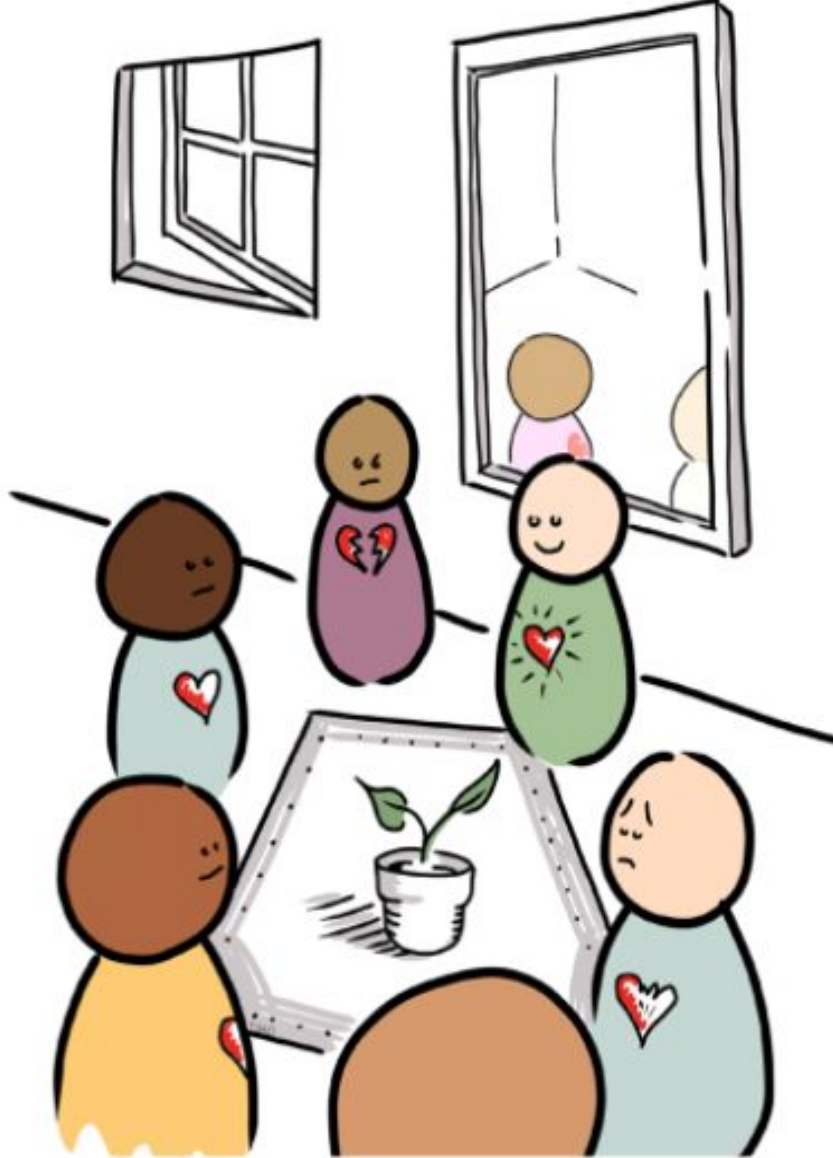




Liberatory Design Mindset #1

Use and practice structures that support healing

- Create space to listen to yourself and others
- Model and promote self-care rituals
- Practice compassion and empathy
- Seek out and engage multiple perspectives



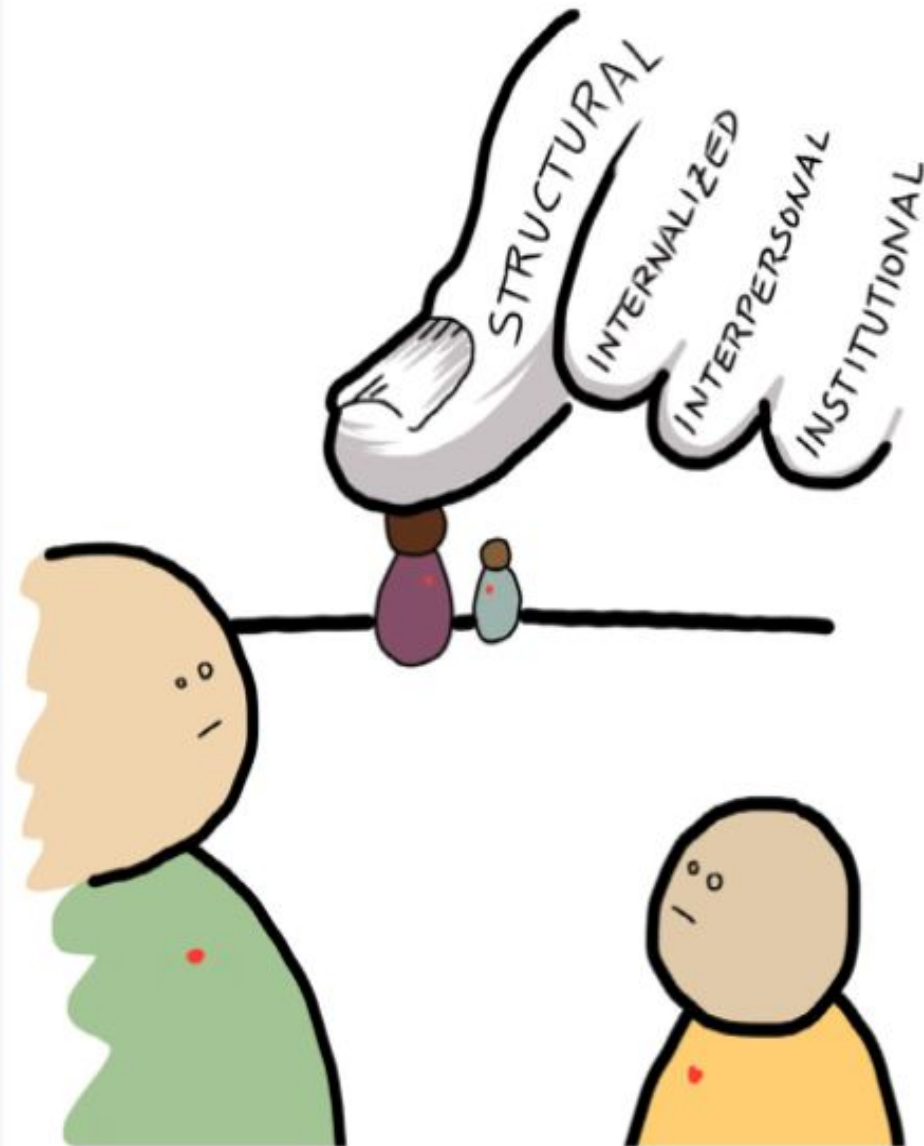
Attend to Healing

The effects of oppression are complex and often hinder our ability to take action. Integrate ongoing healing processes when designing for equity.



Liberatory Design Mindset #2

We must work to see and understand causes and patterns of systemic inequities more clearly in order to transform the experiences of those most impacted.



Recognize Oppression

Learn to see how oppression, in its many forms, has shaped designs that lead to inequity.



Liberatory Design Mindset #3

Oppression thrives on risk-averse behavior.

Since we won't know the answers in advance, we must try low-risk actions that enable us to learn without placing the physical or emotional wellbeing of a person or community at risk.



Exercise Creative Courage

Every human is creative. Creative courage allows us to push through self-doubt and creative fragility so we can design bravely against oppression.



Journal Reflection

How might these mindsets be useful for you in your classroom, school or central office context?

What are one or two ideas that come to mind for you to apply for your first week back to school?

THE PROMISE

*Youth Voice,
Leadership,
Community
Activation &
Narrative
Change*

BLACK JOY
VIDEO



“We believe our youth can speak for themselves, create community solutions and curate culture.”



Taking it Forward

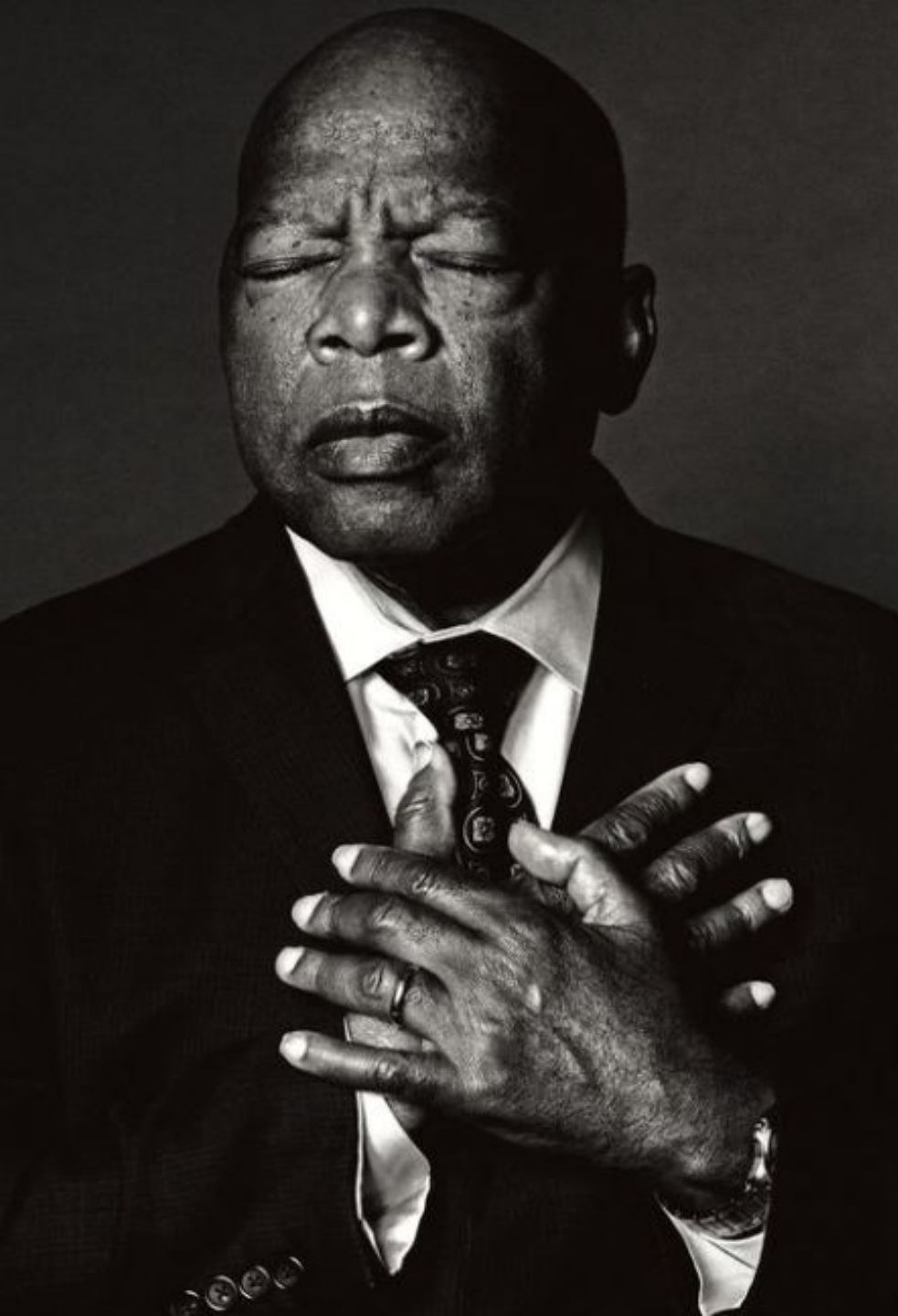


CALL TO ACTION

Take a moment to think about the conversation today. What is one thing you will commit to learning, engaging, being, and/or doing going forward?

Please write down your response using this sentence stem:

As a South Gwinnett Educator and Staff Member, I commit to _____.



You must find a way to get in
the way and get in good
trouble, necessary trouble.

...You have a moral obligation,
a mission and a mandate,
when you leave here, to go
out and seek justice for all.
You can do it. You must do it.

John Robert Lewis

Former United States Representative (GA)
1940-2020

Q&A

THANK YOU

Chris Chatmon

kingmakersofoakland.org



@kingmakersofoakland



@Kingmakers

