

## **The Black & Latino Policy Institute Proposal for 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Whole Child Summit**

The February 24, 2021 summit is sponsored and produced by IU's Indiana School Mental Health Initiative and the Indiana Department of Education.

### **Title of proposal**

Advancing the Whole Child concept: In light of the global Black Lives Matter movement, adding “political” to the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive needs of the whole African American child

### **Summary**

Public education is challenged to meet the needs of the whole child. In light of Black Lives Matter, if we are to build the capacity to address the development of the whole African American child, “political” must be added to the qualities we want to regard and develop. This is not an odd request. Our public schools are political sites. Going to school is a political act for Black students. This is obvious to Black Americans. It's not so obvious to European Americans. In this context, political means an awareness of what it takes to survive as a child of color in a public school system that ranks and sorts students based on whiteness.

### **Intended learning goals**

- Participants will learn the political characteristics and implications of schooling and education for the whole Black American child.
- Participants will appreciate that cultural competency through culturally relevant pedagogy is not enough. It must be advanced as politically relevant teaching.
- Participants will learn how to engage youth who identify with global youth culture by realizing:
  - education is a political act for Black American students;
  - the colonial character of today's education of neo-indigenous students; and,
  - the need for school districts to fundamentally support critical pedagogy.

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