

Empowering School Leaders to Thrive

Recommendations for Supporting School Leader Well-Being

Virtual Webinar - August 31, 2021
12 noon to 1:30 pm CST



EDUCATE TEXAS

at COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS



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Program

WELCOME

ALEJANDRA BARBOSA, PIC
PRISCILLA GARZA, EDUCATE TEXAS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

WHY IS FOCUSING ON LEADER WELL-
BEING IMPORTANT?
DR. STEVEN A. CHAMBERS, M.DIV.

PANEL 1: PRINCIPAL PERSPECTIVES

MODERATED BY LEEANN MALLORY

OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS

REVIEW PIC'S 5-YEAR IMPACT AND
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FIELD
ALEJANDRA BARBOSA, PIC

PANEL 2: EXPERTS FROM THE FIELD

MODERATED BY CHRIS COXON

CALL TO ACTION



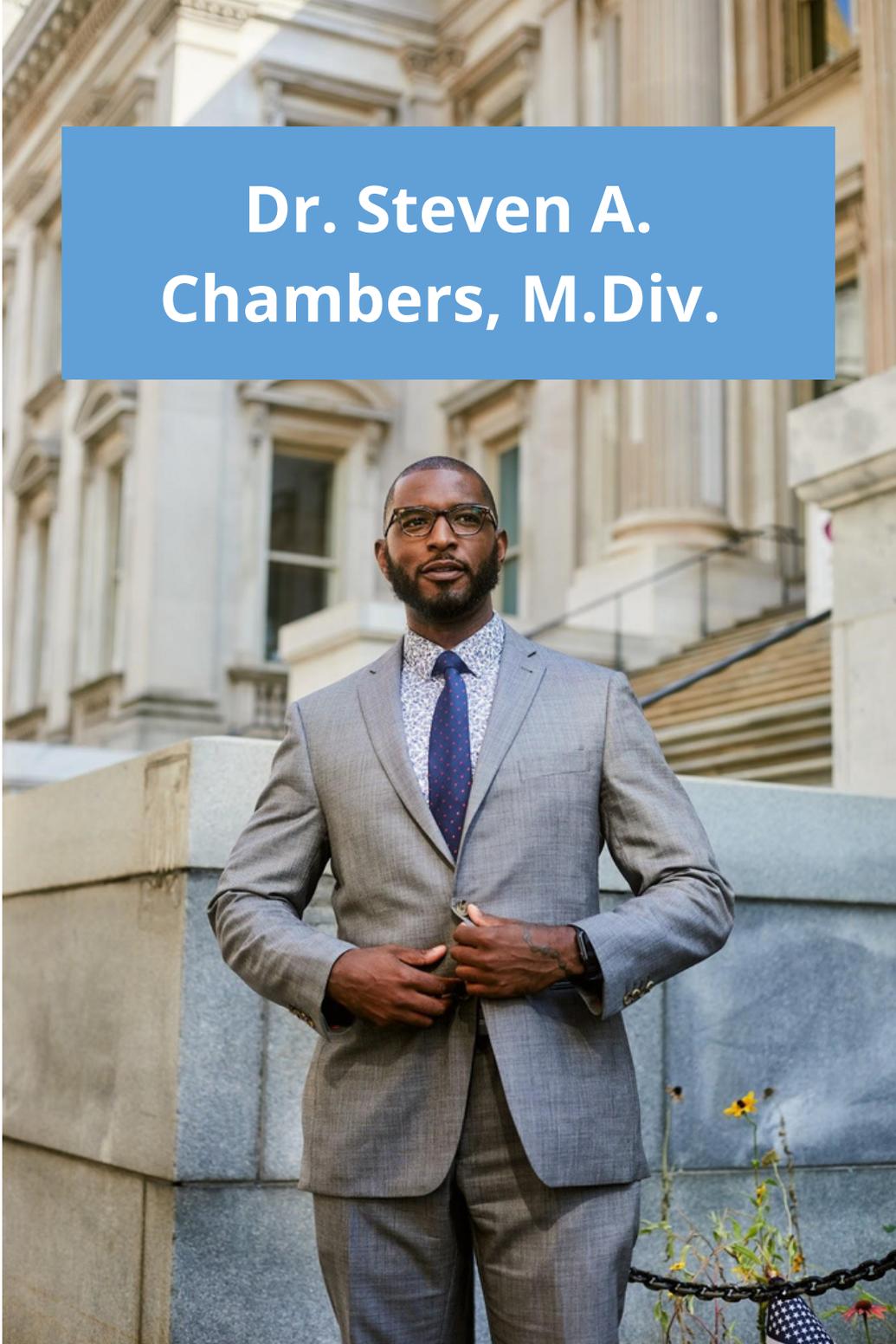
Read Our Findings

Whitepaper Findings

[\(Click here\)](#)

Keynote Speaker

**Dr. Steven A.
Chambers, M.Div.**



Panel 1: Principal Perspectives

Moderated by:
LeeAnn Mallory, Rise Leaders



Quanda Collins, Fort Worth ISD



Ruby Ramirez, Dallas ISD



Tom Brandt, Dallas ISD

Panel: Public School Principals & PIC Leaders

Join our first panel as they share their personal insights as school leaders on the importance of well-being and self-care.

Panel 2: Experts from the Field

Moderated by:
Chris Coxon, Educate Texas



**Dr. John Gasko,
Uplift Education**



**Milan Sevak,
SMU**



**Tina Robertson,
Momentous Institute**

Panel: Experts from the Field

Join our second panel as they provide reflections for the field, principal preparation programs and school districts to consider as they support school leaders to thrive.

Guest Speaker Biographies



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Empowering School Leaders to Thrive: Recommendations for Supporting School Leader Well-Being

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Keynote Speaker

Dr. Steven A. Chambers, M.Div.

An Ohio native and HBCU alum, Dr. Chambers is an educator, religious leader, college readiness professional, and community builder. Having served the Greater Houston, Texas area for over a decade as an elementary school teacher, college access counselor, school district administrator, and associate pastor, Steven finds his Purpose deeply rooted in repairing systems of brokenness facing underserved communities.

In his current role as Senior Advisor for Partnerships and Innovations, Dr. Chambers is charged with reimagining school design, cultivating partnerships to enhance school supports, and securing resources for the 1 million students and families in New York City's Department of Education. Most recently, Steven implemented and managed the city's Outdoor Learning Initiative. In response to COVID-19, the Initiative supported roughly 900 schools in securing public street and park space to conduct class and school day activities outdoors; mitigating the spread of the virus.

As a recent graduate from Harvard University's Doctor of Education Leadership program and a certified Data Wise improvement coach, Steven approaches the work of community and school system leadership through the lens of continuous improvement, racial equity, and social emotional wellness. Dr. Chambers finds joy in serving as an adjunct professor at High Tech High Graduate School of Education lifting weights, boxing, and spending time with family and friends!



**Leadership coach and strategic partner, facilitator, and podcaster.
Founder of Rise Leaders and
Rise Leaders Radio.**

**Empowering School Leaders to Thrive:
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Moderator: LeeAnn Mallory

I am founder of Rise Leaders, a Leadership and Organizational Development firm located in Dallas, TX. I bring over 25 years of experience across multiple industries and scale of businesses.

I have a strong belief that the purpose of businesses expands well beyond profit and that the contemporary business leader must be willing to step into a world of complexity and change with vision, and an open and curious mind. They must be willing to risk, fail and relate well with others.

Leadership is demanding work and not for the faint-hearted. The successful leader of the 21st Century is self-aware and able to see the ripples they make. They integrate multiple dimensions of wellbeing, understanding that this is the foundation from which effective leadership comes. Their embodied leadership inspires trust and right action and is focused on multiple stakeholder wins.

I'm committed to learning partnerships that build these capacities. I am a certified Integral and Somatic Coach and also lean on assessments such as The Leadership Circle Profile™, Be Well Lead Well Pulse® and Tilt365® in my work with leaders and teams.

I love movement and exercise, especially outdoors. I'm equally passionate about reading, cooking, and music, and listening to and creating podcasts. I am a proud mom of two adult daughters who live near Denver, CO. My husband and I live in Dallas with our rescue dog, Remi.



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Panelist: Quanda Collins, PIC 2020 Cohort Member

Quanda Collins has been a campus-based administrator since 2009 and she is currently the principal of TCC South/FWISD Collegiate High School in the Fort Worth Independent School District. In 1994, Quanda graduated from Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas with a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology. With aspirations of becoming a pediatrician, shortly after graduating college, she worked in a medical research lab at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock. However, her aspirations to become a medical doctor changed when she began teaching math and science in North Carolina in 1998.



Quanda joined the Fort Worth Independent School District as a math teacher in 2001. She also served at the district level as a math specialist. In 2008, she earned her Master of Education degree from Concordia University in Austin, TX. In 2020, she earned her doctoral degree in educational leadership from Texas Wesleyan University.

Quanda lives in Saginaw, TX with her husband, Chris, and two children, Tori and Christopher. Growing up in the United States and abroad as a military dependent instilled in her a strong love of family and country. She's grateful for the blessings and opportunities afforded her and wants to make a difference in the lives of others, especially the students in the Fort Worth ISD.

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Panelist: Ruby Ramirez, PIC 2019 Cohort

I am the proud daughter of an immigrant mother and a proud product of Dallas ISD. Learning and growing in Dallas ISD as a bilingual talented and gifted student I was able to graduate with honors from Woodrow Wilson High School. I knew I wanted to one day give back to the home where my opportunity started. I started as a teacher assistant at William Lipscomb Elementary in 2003, the same school I went to school as a child. This is where I was able to begin my work of giving back to the district, community and families where I started.

I then started my path of leadership in 2013 as assistant principal at Felix G. Botello and then as principal in 2014 at Reagan Elementary both in Oak Cliff. In 2018, I was called to open a unique Two-Way Dual Language Talented & Gifted campus in the heart of Pleasant Grove. The first of its kind for Dallas ISD and the first magnet campus in the history of the southern sector of Dallas. As a product of our great Dallas ISD schools and an example of overcoming at-risk adversity I thrive on providing opportunity for achievement and positive societal impact in my time in leadership. Leadership and learning require a passion and commitment to a sustained and nurtured growth mindset of which I consistently push to my staff to keep at the forefront of their belief system. In 2021 I had the honor of being named Choice and Magnet Principal of the Year for Dallas ISD.



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**Panelist: Tom Brandt, PIC 2018 Cohort Member
& PIC Alumni Council Member**

As the school principal for one of the top-performing schools in Texas for gifted and talented students, Tom Brandt brings his passion for the whole child approach to William B. Travis Academy. Before joining Travis TAG, Mr. Brandt taught for ten years with his last year as an AP U.S. History teacher at Townview in Dallas ISD. He then moved into school administrative roles as an assistant principal at Townview and W. T. White high schools. He served as the Preston Hollow Elementary principal from 2014-2018. The 2021-22 school year will be his 23rd year in education and his fourth year as the principal of Travis TAG.



He is an alum of the Teaching Trust Teams program, Principal Impact Collaborative (2018 Cohort), and Raise Your Hand Texas – all programs to build leadership capacity and lead effective schools. In 2018, he was given the distinction as a Dallas ISD Master Principal

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Moderator: J. Chris Coxon Managing Director, Educate Texas

Chris is the director of programs for Educate Texas, supporting a team working to improve educational outcomes for low-income, minority and first-generation students across the state.

This work focuses on four key areas: developing and scaling college and career readiness school models; improving the talent pipeline of teachers and school leaders; promoting access and completion of a degree or credential with labor market value; and developing the civic infrastructure for communities to accelerate academic achievement for all.

Prior to coming to CFT, Chris held a number of educational leadership positions including teacher, teacher leader, district administrator and principal. Before moving back to Dallas, he was the chief academic officer of the Boston Public Schools for five years. During his tenure, the district was designated by the Broad Foundation as one of the top five urban school districts in the nation for improving academic gains for all students and decreasing achievement gaps.

Chris holds a bachelor's in biology from Benedictine College and a master's in education with a focus on administration, planning and social policy from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.



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Panelist: Dr. John Gasko

In the Fall of 2019, Dr. John Gasko was appointed Chief Well-Being Officer at Uplift Education, the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex's largest public charter school district representing 46 schools. He currently leads staff and student facing work encompassing well-being, physical education and athletics, mental health counseling services and prevention, health services and campus-based health clinics, social and emotional learning, restorative practices, and character education. In 2016, he was appointed Professor and Dean of Education at the University of North Texas at Dallas and eventually Special Advisor to the President.

Earlier in his career, Dr. Gasko served as the Director of Research and Public Policy for the Children's Defense Fund, worked alongside physicians, neuroscientists, and psychologists as Associate Division Chief of Developmental Pediatrics at the UT Health Science Center in Houston, and CEO and managing director of the University of Chicago's Urban Education Institute.



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Panelist: Milan Sevak

Milan Sevak currently serves as Clinical Associate Professor and Director of the Aspiring Leaders Program at Southern Methodist University. He has served in school and district roles in a variety of settings including as an Assistant Superintendent (Dallas ISD), Deputy Chief of School Performance (Chicago Public Schools), Special Assistant to the Superintendent (Austin ISD), and Director of Instruction & Assessment (Leadership Public Schools). He has also taught middle and high school students in Richmond (CA), New York City, and India.

Taking a holistic approach to student and educator growth has been a theme throughout his career. He has presented on teacher well-being and leader well-being at national educational research conferences (AERA and UCEA) and incorporates well-being research and practice in master's and doctoral courses designed for educational leaders.

Milan received a B.A. from the University of Chicago, an M.B.A. from Northwestern University, and an M.Ed. and Ed.D. from Harvard University.



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Panelist: Tina L. Roberston, LCSW-S

Tina Robertson is a native of Indianapolis, Indiana and holds an undergraduate degree in English & Political Science from Jarvis Christian College, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU). She received her Master of Science in Social Work from the University of Texas at Arlington. After working in corporate America for close to a decade, she began working in the non-profit sector and has been in the mental health field for over two decades in various direct practice, community outreach, leadership, and executive level roles. Presently, she serves as the Director of Clinical Training at Momentous Institute in Dallas, TX. In this role, Tina is a lead mental health trainer and project director responsible for elevating the work that happens at the intersection of mental health and education and addresses systemic inequities that adversely impact children's capacities to achieve their highest level of social emotional health and academic success.



A licensed clinical social worker and Certified Clinical Trauma Professional (CCTP), Tina also provides therapeutic and counseling services to individuals and families in a community-based setting. Tina's community involvement includes active membership in the National Association of Social Workers (NASW); being an active alumni of Leadership ISD's Dallas County Civic Voices Fellowship; and an advisory board member of Women's Non-Profit Alliance. She has also served on Police Chief Renee Hall's Community Advisory Board of the Dallas Police Department and is currently an advisory member of Dallas Police Department's Training Advisory Board. Tina was an inaugural member of the Dallas anti-racism initiative Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT), which is a national and community-based enterprise engineered and funded by the esteemed W.K. Kellogg Foundation. She is also a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc