



FIRST 8 YEARS

Speaker Series

This series brings local, regional, and national experts together to discuss important themes, research, and cutting-edge early childhood topics, and provide unique context on their place in the Memphis community.



INAUGURAL EVENT

NOV. 11, 2021 | 3 - 4:30 P.M.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Iheoma U. Iruka

Research Professor of Public Policy & Founding Director of the Equity Research Action Coalition at FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Local Guest Panelists:



Dr. Antonio Burt, CEO - KIPP Memphis

Sets the vision for school performance and student achievement, leads high-performing teams, engages key constituents, and fosters a culture of accountability and high expectations.



Chloe Hakim-Moore, Director - NEXT Memphis

Acclaimed social designer, humanitarian, and entrepreneur who built and leads Porter-Leath's \$32M NEXT Memphis initiative to increase access to high quality early childhood education in Shelby County.



Kellie Spilman, Director - Early Success Coalition Porter-Leath

Oversees evidence-based health promotion strategies to maximize impact in program design and evaluation and health communications, and to build capacity of local early childhood programs.



Michael Whaley, Shelby County Commission

Serves as District 5 Commissioner and Tennessee Director of Leadership for Educational Equity (LEE), where he works with current and former teachers to build civic engagement and leadership.

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