

“Elevation of Scholars Voice When Empowered Transforms Education!”

Lincoln Public Schools District Scholar Equity Cadre
Nebraska Department of Education | State Board of Education

Alaa Ismail, Keely Moore, and Zein Saleh | LPS Cadre Scholars
Peter Ferguson | Coordinator Youth Development | LPS
April 8, 2022 | Lincoln, Nebraska

“Board members should know accountability means action. Discussion of equity should exist beyond the board or administration level.”

Zein Saleh, LPS Equity Cadre
North Star High School (Lincoln, Nebraska)



Lincoln Public Schools District Scholar Equity Cadre

Est. 2019

The Cadre is a diverse body of scholars from around the district who advise district leadership on policies and strategies which impact diversity and equity while profiling the successes among scholars of color.



Cadre Engagement & Impact

Shared leadership between youth and adults is at the root of “Empowerment!”

“We have been waiting a long time for change, and we are going to bring it to the table now.”

Deseree Chavez

2021 LPS District Equity Cadre Member

2021 LPS Graduate





District Platforms

- Quarterly | School Board
- Impact of scholar voice
- Response and action steps that provide perspective and strategies to address these areas



Accountability means action; we need the platform to elevate scholar voice, especially on diversity, equity, inclusion, race, and belonging.



Educator Enrichment

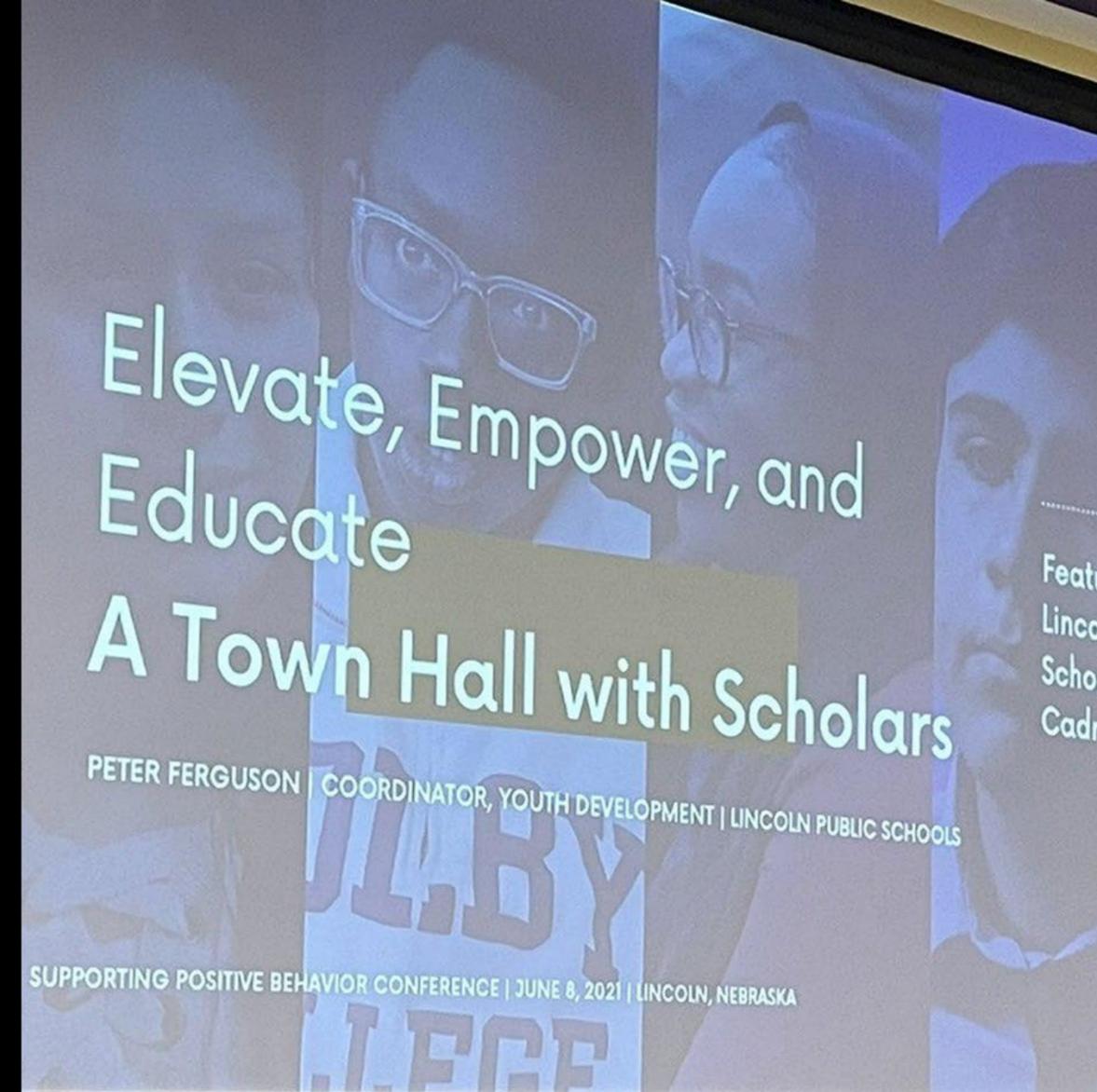
Scholar to Staff | Faculty | Administration
Panels

NE Association for Middle-Level
Educators

Doane University

Curriculum | LPS Social Studies 2021

Quarterly “For the Youth” Town Hall
Engagements with Superintendent





Lincoln
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

What do you say to school leaders who fear accusations of bias from families or doubt students' capacity?

“I’m not sure if our kids are ready for that?”





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empowered transforms
education!”

LPS BOARD GOALS

GOAL: By April 1, 2022, present to the Board a plan to reduce these disparities and achieve more equitable outcomes.

LPS BOARD EQUITY GOALS

- Graduation Rate
- Suspension Rate
- Increase the Diversity of Certified Staff*
- **Enrollment in Honors Courses**

Enrollment in Honors Courses

By spring 2024, reduce disproportionality from “2020-2021 All Students” who have completed at least 1 honors class by 75%.

Targets:

American Indian = 34.3%

Black = 36.8%

Hispanic/Latinx/Latino/Latina = 37.3%

Two or More = 38.7%

Representation Matters

**Committee On Improving Diversity
Within Honors/Advanced Courses**

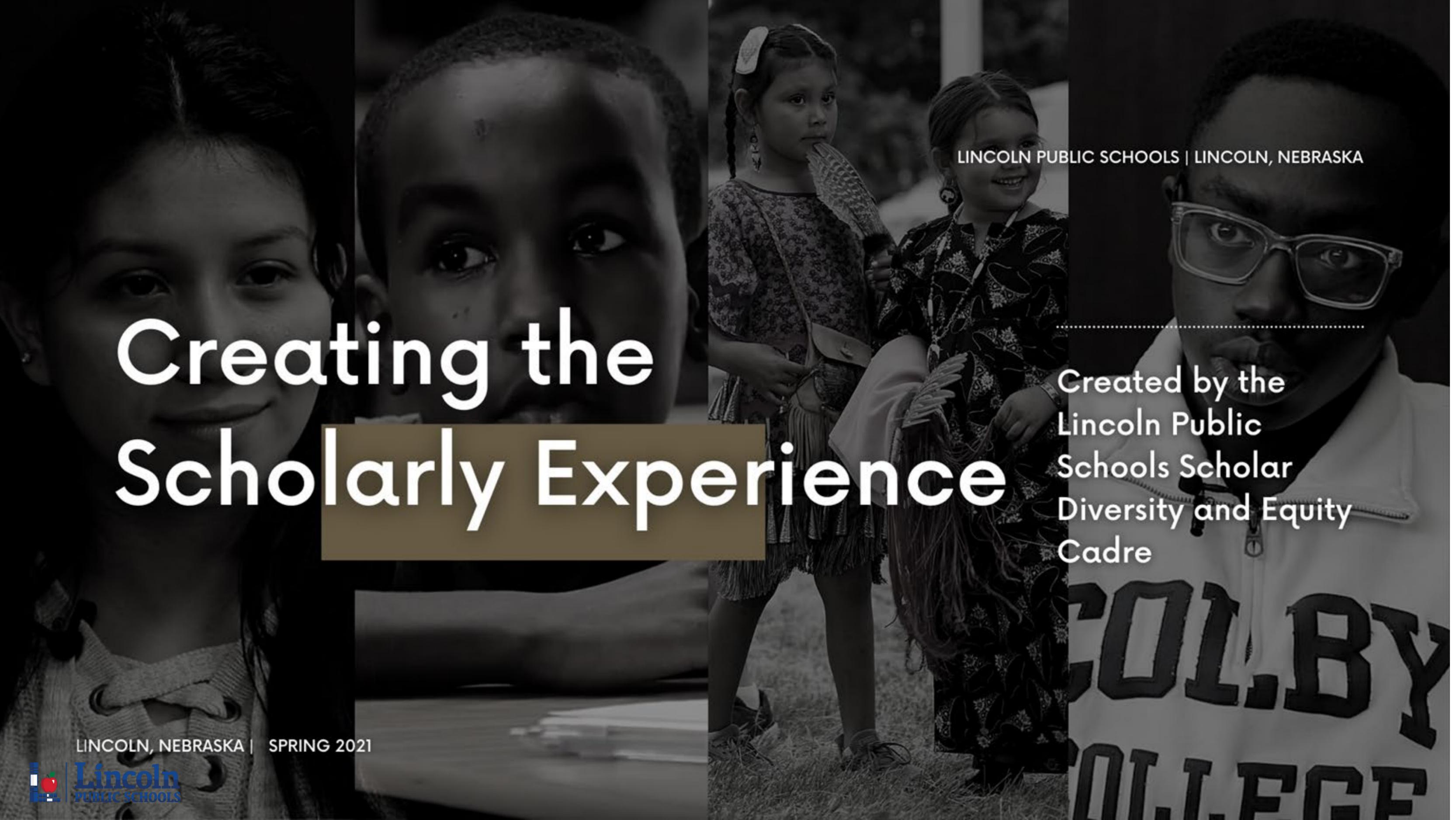
1 of 2 Scholar Members

Literature Review/Effective Practices

Historical Practices

Comparison

January 2022 Survey



LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS | LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Creating the Scholarly Experience

Created by the
Lincoln Public
Schools Scholar
Diversity and Equity
Cadre

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA | SPRING 2021

Overview

IPS 2021 Scholar Developed
District Equity Module

Learn scholar perspectives that facilitate reflection on the current year and explore takeaways that transition a systemic framework into a concrete equitable future.

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Leading for **Equity**

STUDENT
VOICE





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