

# Opening Keynote



## STUDENT PRESENTERS:

Ibiolatiwa Akomolafe, [Diversity Talks](#)

Jason Paternina, [Diversity Talks](#)

Mayra Soares, [Diversity Talks](#)



## Q&A MODERATOR:

[Kiara Butler](#), [Diversity Talks](#)

## BIO:

Kiara Butler is the CEO and Founder of Diversity Talks, a nascent, Rhode Island-based training company, which specializes in providing student-led professional development grounded in diversity, equity and inclusion.

Butler is a strong advocate for student voice and in her current work, she focuses on bringing the voices of marginalized groups to the forefront. Because of her advocacy, she has been recognized for her work in various capacities.

Originally from Mississippi - a state known for holding biases, bigotry, and racism - Butler is a graduate of the state's K12 public education system. When a K12 student in Mississippi, she did not believe educators were aware that the lack of inclusivity of all races, religions, and cultures had a connection between students feeling marginalized and low student performance. Today, her experiences as a student remain the driving force behind her commitment as a change agent transforming K12 public education.

Butler has obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Interdisciplinary Career Oriented Humanities with an emphasis in African American Studies from the prestigious Tougaloo College and became a member of the Gamma Psi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Butler also holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Belhaven University. In 2021, Butler will have obtained a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Johnson & Wales University.

## TIME:

9:00am – 10:00am on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>

## LOCATION:

Town Square