

## **Marion Dreamkeepers**

The name Dreamkeepers comes from the work of Gloria Ladson-Billings who explored “who are the best educators for African American students?” She shows that culturally relevant teaching is not a matter of race, gender, or teaching style. What matters most is a teacher's efforts to work with the unique strengths a child brings to the classroom.

Although land grant universities, K-12 schools, and youth-serving organizations have made recent symbolic commitments to racial justice, for decades, outcomes for BIYOC have not improved. For that reason, Marion Dreamkeepers seeks to allocate material resources and support to young people so they can be at the forefront of racial justice organizing —using photography, storytelling, and civic engagement to advance local solutions and close racial and cultural disparities. The 2021 program will pair youth from Marion Harding High School with investigators from Education, Social Work, Environmental Science, Public Policy, and Arts and Humanities, and with long-standing community organizers who are also experts in their fields. Together, we will host a first annual Equity Day: a day-long, dynamic community education event that recognizes youth-led, participatory action and describes what policy, practices, programs, norms or behaviors have produced outcomes that chronically disadvantage Youth of Color in Marion. A Community Action Plan will be distributed at the end of the grant cycle to immediately address the justice young people deserve and prevent future outcomes based in differential access, participation, and treatment by K-12 schools, higher education, and various community organizations. This plan, amplified by project partners at Tuskegee University and University of South Carolina, will position Marion Dreamkeepers as a replicable program for public schools across the nation.

To learn more about Marion Dreamkeepers, contact Whitney Gherman (Principal Investigator) or sign up below and download a copy of a recording.

### **Sign Up to Get Involved**

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