

**WEBINAR: What's Underneath the Iceberg:  
Unpacking ACEs and Addressing Structural Inequities**  
Thursday, January 10, 2019 | 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM EDT

**PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES**

**Nikotris Perkins,**

*Senior Strategist, Ubuntu Research and Evaluation*

A Black woman. Nikotris Perkins is a proud Milwaukeean that received all of her education from local institutions. Between Alverno College, Marquette University, and UW-Milwaukee she has received her BA in Community Leadership and Development, MA in Non-Profit Management, M.Ed in Curriculum Design, an MA in Community Counseling. Additionally, she is currently working on her Doctoral degree in Urban Studies. For the last 15 years, she has worked with educational and youth development institutions including schools, district administrators and policymakers across the United States. Her research focuses on developing Beloved Communities for youth serving environments and engaging all parties in providing a research based, quality, and engaging environment for youth to grow. One of the ways she does this is engaging organizations, communities, and individuals in the utilization of their own personal narratives and stories to advocate and speak truth to power. She is currently working with schools, foundations, and community-based organizations to implement youth and parent voice with a dignity lens within their work. She is also an alum of the Bailey Sullivan Leadership Institute where she worked with educational scholars and activists from around the nation and built a neighborhood based educational engagement model for parents. Currently, she is a fellow with the Campaign for Black Male Achievement and is working on ways to deepen impact and improve sustainability in programming and initiatives. Nikotris is a Senior Strategist at UBUNTU Research and Evaluation. *Learn more about Ubuntu Research and Evaluation at: <https://www.ubunturesearch.com>*



**Dr. Renée Boynton-Jarrett**

*Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Boston University School of Medicine; Founding Director, Vital Village Network at Boston Medical Center*

Renée Boynton-Jarrett is a practicing primary care pediatrician at Boston Medical Center, a social epidemiologist and the founding director of the Vital Village Community Engagement Network. Through the Vital Village Network, she is supporting the development of community-based strategies to promote child well-being in three Boston neighborhoods. She joined the faculty at Boston University School of Medicine in 2007 and is currently an Associate Professor of Pediatrics. She received her AB from Princeton University, her MD from Yale School of Medicine, ScD in Social Epidemiology from Harvard School of Public Health, and completed residency in Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Her work focuses on the role of early-life adversities as



life course social determinants of health. She has a specific interest in the intersection of community violence, intimate partner violence, and child abuse and neglect and neighborhood characteristics that influence these patterns. *Learn more about Vital Village at: <https://vitalvillage.org>*

**Ronda Alexander (Moderator)**

*Director of Operations, Vital Village Network at Boston Medical Center*

Ronda Alexander is a native Detroit native dedicated to working with communities to reach their desired goals by aligning and leveraging their resources. Ronda joins us from the United Way for Southeastern Michigan where she served as the Director of Corporate and Community Alignment on the organization's College and Career Pathways team. In her role at United Way Ronda worked to help external corporate partners find meaningful ways to engage with both students and educators; as well as worked across teams within the organization to align and leverage resources. Prior to joining United Way Ronda worked on the premier education initiative of Ford Motor Company Fund – Ford Next Generation (Ford NGL) for nine years. While at Ford Fund Ronda served a variety of roles including Professional Development/Technical Assistance Specialist and Program Manager for STEM initiatives. In all of her roles with Ford Fund Ronda worked with and supported multiple communities across the country as they worked to transform their communities through education. *Learn more about Vital Village at: <https://vitalvillage.org>*



**About the Webinar**

*Across the country, ongoing research and growing attention continues to shed light on the critical role that experiences of trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) -- and the community structures, systems, and policies that drive them -- play in shaping the long term health and wellbeing of children and their families across the life course. Building upon a multi-systems "iceberg" model and Dignity framework, this webinar will explore the multiple layers and systems that contribute to inequities in community experiences and outcomes shaped by early life adversities. Speakers will share how they are unpacking these layers and lift up examples of efforts underway to address these critical issues.*