

## COURAGEOUS CONVERSATION TESTIMONIALS

“St. Louis Park Public Schools has partnered with Courageous Conversation™ for almost 20 years. *Courageous Conversations About Race* has been key in our ability to engage, sustain, and deepen conversations about race. In my opinion, the protocol is foundational to systemic change for racial equity in school settings. I firmly believe that our school district would not be where we are today with our transformative racial equity plan if it were not for *Courageous Conversations About Race* and this partnership. The tools and strategies have allowed members of our organization and community to interrogate how race is lived both personally and professionally and how it impacts the educational experience of our scholars.”

—**Astein Osei, Superintendent**

St. Louis Park Public Schools  
St. Louis Park, MN

“*Courageous Conversations About Race* has guided our cultural transformation at Portland Public Schools toward becoming a more racially aware and culturally responsive institution—from our classroom instruction to our business and hiring practices. This protocol not only provides a way in to difficult conversations; it gives each of us the tools to see, own, and act on our role in perpetuating the status quo and understanding the urgency to reframe the paradigm for the success of all students.”

—**Carole Smith, Former Superintendent**

Portland Public Schools  
Portland, OR

“*Courageous Conversations About Race* came across my desk at a time that I had almost given up on engaging in discussions of race and equity. I was exhausted from countless painful and unproductive conversations on this sensitive topic. I quickly learned why so many people choose not to engage in these conversations—because it is hard. This book not only inspires educators and system-level leaders to courageously address what we have all become comfortable with ignoring but also gives us concrete tools for productively entering a conversation about race.”

—**Dr. Veronica Benavides**

Educator, Researcher, and Leadership Development Specialist  
Copenhagen, Denmark

“In a nation that too often eschews either real dialogue or courage when it comes to issues like race and inequality, and particularly in regard to education, Glenn Singleton has demonstrated over many years just how important fearlessness can be in transforming schools and communities into places where justice is possible. The Courageous Conversation approach to enhancing equity is invaluable to the struggle for a more fair-minded and truly just America.”

—**Tim Wise**

Anti-racism Educator and Author  
*White Like Me: Reflections on Race From a Privileged Son*

“The ‘So what?’ and ‘What now?’ options this guide presents for self- and institutional learning are clear. The ‘So what?’ describes the necessary work in addressing the undereducation of children of color and the miseducation of White students and many current educators. The ‘What now?’ is framed by the important message that this is not easy work, and it is fraught with the unaddressed dangers for those who undertake it. It is those dangers that allow racism to persist in our country.”

—**Randall Lindsey, Emeritus Professor**  
California State University, Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, CA

“Glenn E. Singleton has provided yet another powerful and still relevant book in this useful revision. If you are serious about engaging in exercises that can truly interrogate race and unearth privilege for the purpose of obtaining equity in our schools, read this book. Indeed, this book inspired me to do my own racial autobiography and also inspired my principalship students to start the journey to become more racially aware leaders who can skillfully lead Courageous Conversations. Since then, they have taken action through practice, often using this volume, to make impactful changes to eradicate inequities in their schools in meaningful, life-altering ways.”

—**Mark Anthony Gooden, PhD**  
Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Professor of Education Leadership  
Department of Organization and Leadership  
Director of Endeavor Antiracist and Restorative Leadership Initiative (EARLI)  
Teachers College, Columbia University  
New York, NY

“The protocols of Courageous Conversation have changed my life as a leader, an educator, and a fellow citizen of our forever-changing world. As a White woman, I have deepened not only my racial consciousness but also my ability to engage, both personally and professionally, in richer and truer capacities. I once heard Cornel West say that the heart of a strong, liberal education rests within the ability ‘to be prepared for the conversation and to be prepared to be changed by it.’ Courageous Conversations have allowed me that sort of preparation.”

—**Ellanor N. Brizendine, Head of School**  
The Spence School  
New York, NY

“The work Glenn is doing through *Courageous Conversations About Race* will stir you intellectually and move your personal beliefs beyond what you knew possible. This is the first approach I’ve seen that moves everyone along on their journey based on where they are personally first. The application of Glenn’s work goes beyond education and into many sectors of our society and industries. I am excited to see how his work can impact the advertising industry. Writing mission statements and policies and coming up with programs are boxes many companies check. That part is too easy. And I think many companies will admit to feeling stuck. Glenn’s approach takes true courage to

get real about one major obstacle, which is the belief system I have that may block my perspectives on diversity. Cheers to Glenn for challenging the conversation!”

—**Keesha Jean-Baptiste, Senior Vice President and Chief Talent Officer**

Hearst Magazines  
New York, NY

## TESTIMONIALS FOR THE FIRST EDITION OF *COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE*

“The beauty of this volume is that it is designed to help lay people—teachers, administrators, parents, community leaders, and even university professors—begin to engage in the emotionally and psychically difficult conversations about race. Glenn Singleton and Curtis Linton have offered us an important book that provides us with empirical data and well-constructed exercises to help us think through the ways that race affects our lives and our professional practices. My sincere desire is that after you have had an opportunity to read this volume, you will, indeed, engage in some courageous conversations about race.”

—**Gloria Ladson-Billings, Professor**

University of Wisconsin–Madison  
Author, *The Dreamkeepers*

“This is an important book that challenges one to think critically about the effects of race and student achievement. It is an invitation to sustain a strong desire for fairness and equity for all children.”

—**SMSG Newsletter**

“In an era when America seems content to sweep candid talk of race under the rug, *Courageous Conversations About Race* recognizes that denial isn’t a prescription for interracial tolerance and social progress. The author provides thoughtful educators with innovative instructional tools to successfully navigate the most robustly diverse nation on earth.”

—**Hugh B. Price, Former President and CEO**

National Urban League



# **Courageous Conversations About Race**

Third Edition

*This book is dedicated to Mom, Nana, and Granny . . . the three phenomenal women, courageous inspirations, and guiding forces lining my purpose to achieve racial equity.*

*I also extend my deepest gratitude to my brother, colleague, and loyal confidant, David Davidson, Sr., whose passion, practice, persistence, and purpose emboldened me to successfully navigate the pandemic of 2020 and bring this third edition to life.*

# **Courageous Conversations About Race**

**A Field Guide for Achieving  
Equity in Schools and Beyond**

Third Edition

**Glenn E. Singleton**

**CORWIN**

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