



National Blue Ribbon Schools Program 2021 Awards Ceremony

November 4 -5, 2021

Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center

Preliminary agenda below

Congratulations 2021 National Blue Ribbon Schools



During this celebratory event, awardees will hear from several guest speakers, engage in topical discussions with peers, receive congratulatory remarks, hear from this year's Bell Awardees, and join their peers in the presentation of awards.

The U.S. Department of Education's Director of the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, Aba Kumi, will welcome and congratulate awardees.

Featured Guests and Speakers



Keynote Speaker:

Juliana Urtubey is the 2021 National Teacher of the Year from Nevada. Juliana will share how she is dedicated to serving as a mirror for her school community, helping students take pride in their identities and families, and acknowledging students' strengths and contributions to the community.

Juliana Urtubey is a National Board Certified Teacher with degrees in bilingual elementary education and a master's in special bilingual education. As a first-generation, bilingual immigrant who loved school as a student, she brings a unique perspective to cultivating joyful and just education for all students. Currently in her 11th year in the classroom, she serves as a co-teacher in prekindergarten through fifth grade special education settings and as an instructional strategist.

(Photo Credit: Melissa Esparza)



Special Session:

Christopher Willard will provide a special session, "Mindful Resilience, Self-Compassion, and Post Traumatic Growth." He will help us explore the foundations of resilience and post traumatic growth through the lens of mindfulness, positive psychology, and neuroscience. He will share tools and experiential exercises that have boosted human resilience in the face of adversity for generations that can be used for self care, and for working with students and staff.

Christopher Willard is a clinical psychologist, author, consultant, and teacher at Harvard Medical School. He has spoken across the globe and has presented at TEDx events on mindfulness and mental health. He has authored eighteen books and been featured in multiple publications.

Featured Events



Panel presentation on leadership on November 5 from 2021 Terrel H. Bell Award Winners for Outstanding Leadership, facilitated by Joseph Masgai, U.S. Department of Education Resident School Ambassador Fellow.

2021 Award Ceremony participants will also engage in the following **workshops** by guest presenters:

- Sadiq Ali and Pamela Civins on the strength of youth mentoring from Maryland MENTOR
- Jessica Hazzard and Melissa Lampert on serving multilingual learners from Fostering Quality Schools
- Tauheedah Jackson on building community schools from Coalition of Community Schools
- TBD

Networking Café by Topic

Participants will have an informal opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with other educators from across the country who are interested in the same topic.