



120 Newark Central School District Staffers Participate

120 Newark Central School District staff participated in the regional 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge October 23- November 20th designed to heighten awareness of how racism affects lives and communities.

In doing so they joined more than 100,000 individuals and over 300 local companies in the Greater Rochester region who took the Challenge. Some of them included:<https://www.uwrochester.org/UnitedWayGreaterRochester/media/Documents/21-Day-Racial-Equity-Challenge-Community-Partners.pdf>

As part of the Challenge, participants agreed to read articles and view videos about related topics provided them each day. In addition, 16 of the participating NCSD staff members opted to be part of an online discussion forum December 8th.. That group has asked these online forums continue twice each month.

NCSD Diversity Coach Danielle Ohlson, who teaches 9th grade English at NHS and co-teaches the Multicultural Studies English 12 Class with NHS art teacher Renee Bailey, provided the Newark Board of Education with information about district staffers' participation in the Challenge at the December 2 Board of Education meeting.

Ohlson, who was the facilitator of the Challenge for the NCSD told the BOE she has received positive feedback from NSCD Challenge participants and shared three responses in her report.

"The articles and videos are a great jumping off point. It has made me reflect and want to know more. I have started reading the book "The Warmth of Other Suns." The Challenge has been very eye opening and thought provoking." -High School clerical staff member

"I am enjoying reading the Challenge material and most of all answering the reflection questions to myself. It helps me attempt to put myself in the shoes of my students. As I gain more knowledge and awareness...I remind myself that I still have much more work to do!!!" -Kelley School teacher

"I am enjoying reading/watching the articles and/or video clips. There is a lot more to it than many of us think and knowing the level of depth and systematization over many years that this has/is a thing is tough. We need to keep learning and acting where we can, be advocates and champions for this type of work, especially for our students!" -Middle School counselor

"The two biggest takeaways of the Challenge for me are that people have shared they have an increased awareness of the issue and a group of participants want more opportunities to go deeper with this work," Ohlson said. "They saw the Challenge as a starting point. I am happy to provide this ongoing resource and forum for them."