

# Equity in 1881 – Equity in 2021

## Advances & Opportunities

	<b>AAUW'S 140th ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL CELEBRATION</b> <i>Advancing Equity Since 1881</i> Saturday, November 13, 2021 – 1:00-3:00 pm <i>FREE Event - Presented via Zoom</i>
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[\*\*Register Now!\*\*](#)

### JOIN EQUITY-MINDED PRACTITIONERS

*Focusing on Factors that Support Advancing Equity*



Gloria Blackwell  
AAUW CEO



Rachel Rollins  
District Attorney



Patricia Fae Ho  
AAUW



Carole Copeland Thomas  
Multicultural Symposium



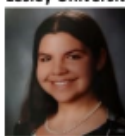
Diana C. Direiter  
Lesley University



Juliana Shimer  
Biogen



Sarah Looney  
Weymouth High School



Jennifer Leavitt  
Sensata Technologies

**SPEAKERS:** Gloria Blackwell – AAUW CEO; District Attorney Rachel Rollins - Boston's first female district attorney, AAUW Selected Professions Fellow; Patricia Fae Ho - AAUW Past National President, Board Chair of Wellspring House and Voices Against Injustice.

**PANEL MODERATOR:** Carole Copeland Thomas - Founder Multicultural Symposium Series

**PANELISTS:** Diana C. Direiter, Ph.D. – Dean of Faculty, Lesley University; Sarah Looney - AAUW South Shore STEM Conference for Girls Coordinator, Weymouth High School Rugby Team; Juliana Shimer – Biogen Rare Diseases, AAUW National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) Attendee; Jennifer Leavitt - Manager, Process Engineering, Sensata Technologies, SE MA STEM Network Advisory Board

**FACILITATORS:** Cristina Ajemian – AAUW-MA Co- President, Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights Member; Katherine Honey - AAUW-MA Co-President, SE MA STEM Network Coordinator



AAUW-MA Co-Presidents  
Katherine Honey & Cris Ajemian

## Inviting Equity-Minded Practitioners

AAUW-MA Co-Presidents Cris Ajemian and Katherine Honey invite those interested in learning how others advance equity to join us.

**Saturday, November 13, 2021 – 1:00-3:00pm**

*FREE Event - Presented via Zoom*

*Hosted by AAUW Taunton Area Branch*

**[Register Now!](#)**

### ***Focusing on Factors that Support Advancing Equity***

Speakers and panelists represent national and state leaders who are currently working to advance equity. Topics include diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives at the national, state, and local level; resources to close equity, STEM and wealth gaps; impact of programs, practices and policies on equity; importance of access to technology and STEM literacy for all ages; and programs that prepare students to lead and to seize career opportunities.

Presenters will also highlight the historical evolution of the meaning of equity as illustrated by the founders of AAUW in 1881 and AAUW's mission today in 2021. In 1881, MIT graduates Ellen Swallow Richards (1873) and Marion Talbot (1888) founded the American Association of University Women to create educational opportunities for women. Their vision for AAUW in 1881 resonates today in 2021. The call to action by Ellen Swallow Richards in 1907 reflects AAUW's advocacy efforts and leadership and STEM programs designed for women and girls.

#### **Calling on Future Generations – AAUW Co-Founder Ellen Swallow Richards - 1907**

To whom shall we look more confidently for leadership in constructive work, for social and national betterment, than to the professionally and technically trained women now coming onto the stage?

#### **WELCOME & SPEAKERS**

**1:00-1:30PM**

- **Cristina Ajemian** – AAUW-MA Co- President, Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights
- **Patricia Fae Ho** - AAUW Past National President, Board Chair of Wellspring House and Voices Against Injustice
- **Gloria Blackwell** – AAUW Chief Executive Officer, AAUW representative to the United Nations
- **District Attorney Rachel Rollins** - Boston's first female district attorney, AAUW Selected Professions Fellow

#### **EQUITY IN 1881 – EQUITY IN 2021 POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**1:30-1:40PM**

- **Katherine Honey** - AAUW-MA Co-President, SE MA STEM Network Coordinator

#### **PANEL**

**1:40 - 2:50PM**

- **Panel Moderator: Carole Copeland Thomas** - Founder Multicultural Symposium Series
- **Panelists: Diana C. Direiter, Ph.D.** – Dean of Faculty, Lesley University; **Sarah Looney** - AAUW South Shore STEM Conference for Girls Coordinator, Weymouth High School Rugby Team; **Juliana Shimer** – Biogen Rare Diseases, AAUW National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) Attendee; **Jennifer Leavitt** - Manager, Process Engineering, Sensata Technologies, SE MA STEM Network Advisory Board

#### **CLOSING**

**2:50-3:00PM**

**For additional information contact, Cris Ajemian at [cmajemian@aol.com](mailto:cmajemian@aol.com) or Katherine Honey at [khoney@comcast.net](mailto:khoney@comcast.net).**

## **PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Suffolk County District Attorney Rachel Rollins**

**HELP HEAL - BE BRAVE - SERVE HUMBLLY - RESPECT EVERYONE - WORK SMART**

Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins is the chief law enforcement officer for Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, Massachusetts. She is the first woman ever elected as District Attorney in Suffolk County and the first woman of color ever elected District Attorney in Massachusetts.

Since taking office in 2019, Rollins has implemented humane and data-supported policies that no longer criminalize mental health issues, substance use disorders, food and housing insecurities, and immigration status, instead focusing her limited resources on the most violent and serious crimes and keeping Suffolk County safe. Among some of her larger initiatives and policy implementations are her first in nation Discharge Integrity Team to help investigate officer involved shootings and allegations of excessive force. The DIT consists of a community member, a criminal defense attorney, a retired judge, and a member of law enforcement. Rollins also created an Integrity Review Bureau that looks not only at post-conviction claims of actual innocence, but also reviews unconstitutional, unethical, and unjust convictions, as well as sentencing disparities. Over 240 years of wrongful convictions, and counting, have been overturned by her IRB. An attorney for over 20 years, Rollins previously worked as a federal prosecutor at the United States Attorney's Office in Boston. She also served as General Counsel for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, and as Chief Legal Counsel for the Massachusetts Port Authority.

Rollins was a Governor Deval Patrick appointee to the Judicial Nominating Commission and a past president of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association. She has been honored as the Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly's Lawyer of the Year in 2018; The Boston Globe's Bostonian of the Year and Emerge Massachusetts' Woman of the Year in 2019; and one of the Boston Business Journal's Power 50 Exceptional Leaders in 2020.

### **AAUW Chief Executive Officer Gloria Blackwell**

Gloria, in addition to her role as CEO, is also AAUW's main representative to the United Nations. Among her many accomplishments is her 15-year management of AAUW's highly esteemed fellowships and grants program—awarding more than \$70 million in funding to women scholars and programs in the U.S. and overseas.

Gloria has also been the driving force behind AAUW's signature programs, including its salary negotiation trainings, which have reached nearly 190,000 nationwide. She has worked on pay equity initiatives with public officials in Washington D.C., New York City, Boston and Pittsburgh, as well as with numerous other state and municipal partners. She also worked with the National Science Foundation to increase girls participation in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. Most notably, Gloria has significantly expanded the AAUW's outreach to girls and women of color.

Before joining AAUW in 2004 she was the director of Africa education programs at the Institute of International Education (IIE). She also managed fellowships programs during her decade at IIE and has held positions as a Peace Corps staff member and volunteer in Africa. She holds a master's degree in education and human development from the George Washington University, a bachelor's degree in international affairs from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, and studied at the American University in Paris. Gloria is committed to supporting opportunities and empowerment for women and girls globally.

[Register Here](#)

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