



Naomi N. Shelton Selected as the CEO of the National Charter Collaborative!

The Board of Directors of the National Charter Collaborative (NCC) – the only national non-profit supporting the work of charter school leaders of color – has selected Naomi N. Shelton as Chief Executive Officer. Naomi will assume her role in January 2021.



Naomi’s career as a leader in the education sector spans policy, advocacy and programmatic initiatives with a deep focus on both K-12 and post-secondary education. Most recently, she led community engagement efforts at the KIPP Foundation where she defined and executed strategic partnerships in support of KIPP schools and communities across the country. Prior, she spent seven years as the Director of K-12 Advocacy with the UNCF (United Negro College Fund) where she established and raised funds to expand the UNCF’s K-12 initiative working with HBCUs and strategic partners including civil rights and faith-based organizations.

Naomi is nationally known and respected as a vocal advocate for charter schools to expand quality choice options for Black and Brown students and families. She is an esteemed volunteer board member of the Washington DC Public Charter School Board which is one of the highest quality authorizing boards in the country in a city where more than 40% of students attend charter schools.

NCC Co-Founders, Trish Millines-Dziko and Kimberly Smith, who started the organization as a project in their Aspen Pahara Fellowship, are excited that Naomi’s experience and passion for community-centered school options will lead the organization forward.

“Naomi will bring the know-how, experience, perspective and voice that is needed to advocate for and support charter leaders of color whose work is overlooked in a sector that serves tens of thousands of families of color”, said Kimberly Smith, co-founder.

“After five years of building NCC into a national model supporting single-site charter leaders of color, it feels really good to have the future of NCC in Naomi's hands, and I'm excited to see her take the work to the next level.”, said Trish Millines-Dziko, co-founder.

Naomi joins the organization at the time when the work of charter leaders of color is paramount. Students and families of color are disenfranchised by the inequities within the education sector that are exacerbated by the pandemic.

“Naomi joins NCC at a critical time for charter public schools and for charter leaders of color. With a strong track record of advocacy on behalf of communities of color, Naomi is the leader we need to help amplify the work of charter school leaders of color and to help build and shape NCC moving forward.”, said Laura McGowan-Robinson, Chair of the NCC Board and Founder of the Diversity in Leadership Institute.

Naomi will continue the work of the NCC to include hosting the annual national Collective Action Convening, advocating for charter leaders of color, launch a Special Education community of practice, consultancy workshops and the expansion of the Manati Fellowship following the Washington, DC pilot. While most of Naomi’s work will support Black and Brown school leaders across the country, she will be based in Washington, DC

For questions or further information, contact info@chartercollab.org.