



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
UNIVERSITY CITY
Transform the Life of Every Student Every Day!

NewsRelease

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO TAKE PART IN PANEL DISCUSSION ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE DISTRICT

University City, MO – Our Superintendent of Schools **Sharonica Hardin-Bartley**, PhD, PHR is one of several panelists taking part in *Educating University City: Tracing the History of U City Schools through Decades of Change* on Wednesday, June 19 at 7:00 p.m. The panel discussion will feature District staff and alumni reflecting on diversity and inclusion in the school district's history. The event is free and open to the public, and will take place at the University City Public Library, 6701 Delmar Blvd.

In addition to Hardin-Bartley, panelists include **Dr. Tracy Hinds**, English Language Arts and Social Studies coordinator for the District; **Dennis Lubeck**, a 1959 graduate of University City High School and a teacher for the District (1965-1985); **Linda Thompson**, a retired elementary teacher who worked at several University City schools; and **Kayanna Wymbbs**, a 2016 graduate of University City High School. Panelists will discuss the ways in which the School District of University City has responded to changes and challenges over the past couple of decades, including desegregation, embracing different cultures and religious beliefs, and accommodating immigrant populations. **Jim Kirchherr**, a producer for *Living St. Louis* on KETC Channel 9 and a University City resident, will moderate the discussion.

“University City is a rich melting pot and allows us to be uniquely U. City,” according to Sharonica Hardin-Bartley. “Diversity is how we grow, support, and strive to help make communities better as a result of our efforts. I always say that our differences help us to embrace empathy as we value the lived experiences of others. We all truly have a story.”

The panel discussion is part of *American Creed: Community Conversations*, a summer-long series of events associated with the PBS documentary *American Creed*, which features former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David M. Kennedy coming together from different points of view to investigate the idea of a unifying American creed. Their spirited inquiry frames the stories of citizen-activists striving to realize their own visions of America's promise across deepening divides.

American Creed: Community Conversations is a project of Citizen Film in partnership with the American Library Association and the National Writing Project, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. All programs will be held in the library's auditorium and are free and open to the public.

#UCLionPride

On February 27, 1911, with a City population of only 2,417, The School District of University City was officially established. Classes began in September 1912 with a total school population of 769. Today, you will find outstanding educational programs serving a student population of approximately 2,800 with a preschool, four elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. In May 2018, University City High School held its 107th formal Commencement Ceremony.