



Keynote #1: Friday May 27th

## Power and Empowerment: Honoring By Decision and Design

Andratesha Fitzgerald

Equitable and inclusive learning environments are built on the choices of individuals. This keynote will explore the notions of power and empowerment that are made evident in our decisions, our designs and our outcomes. With antiracism and Universal Design for Learning we can begin inviting every voice to powerful positions by honoring identity, culture, and learning needs.

Participants will:

- Explore the definitions of honor and power
- Evaluate power filled choices and examine the implications of power in equitable access to learning.
- Begin co-creating a community of educators who are conscious of how to use power to honor learners.



**Andratesha Fitzgerald** is committed to excellence in education. She has worked in schools as a teacher, curriculum specialist, administrator and director. Most recently she has been appointed Grant Project Director for the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio. As a Martha Holden Jennings Foundation Scholar, Fitzgerald exhibited excellence in teaching and a strong commitment to urban education from the very start of her career. She was featured in *Education Week*, a national publication, twice.

With a passion for Universal Design for Learning, Culturally Responsive Teaching and Antiracism, she has led collaborative initiatives to craft implementation plans, design lab templates, professional development symposia and professional practice cadres. She models expert learning while equipping others to do the same.

Tesha has a Master's Degree in Urban Secondary Teaching, with an emphasis on language arts instruction. She also has an Ed.S. degree in administration. As an international keynote speaker she has presented at the CAST Symposium, Harvard Graduate School of Education and the Ireland National College. Her award-winning book [\*Antiracism and Universal Design for Learning: Building Expressways to Success\*](#), (CAST, 2020) has helped

schools, districts, colleges and organizations begin the brave actions to view and address equity in education.

Her life's work is to awaken, celebrate and activate brilliance by breaking barriers and stereotypes of teachers, leaders and students to actualize achievement wherever it seems impossible. A self-proclaimed book nerd, Jeopardy enthusiast and imagination expert, she loves writing and dreaming out loud with her husband, two children and committed educators who believe in academic success for all. She is the founder of Building Blocks of Brilliance Education Consulting Firm, established in 2018.

Connect with her on Twitter [@FritzTessa](https://twitter.com/FritzTessa)