

# REUNITED IN THE ROCKIES

## RECORD HIGH PARTICIPATION & HIGHEST OVERALL RATING IN A DECADE

PIE Network Summit is an invitation-only experience that attracts nearly 300 leaders annually, including a high-profile roster of state, local, and national education policy and advocacy leaders. The 2021 Summit in Denver, CO on October 20-22 was the highest-rated Summit since 2012 and saw record high participation.

## 15TH ANNUAL SUMMIT BY THE NUMBERS

**4.6**

Participants rated the experience a 4.6 out of 5 bottom line score

**271**

Participants from 29 states and Washington, D.C.

**80%**

Of Network organizations participated

**78**

Network Executive Directors participated

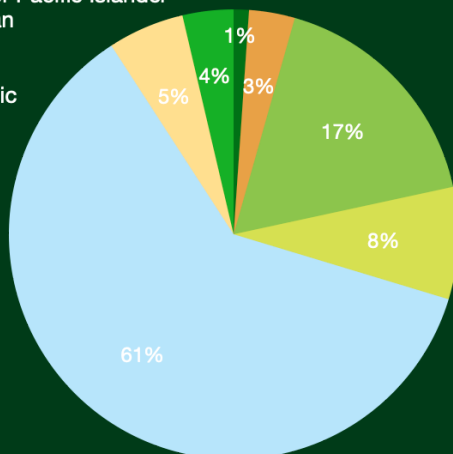
**47%**

Of participants attended Summit for the first time in 2021

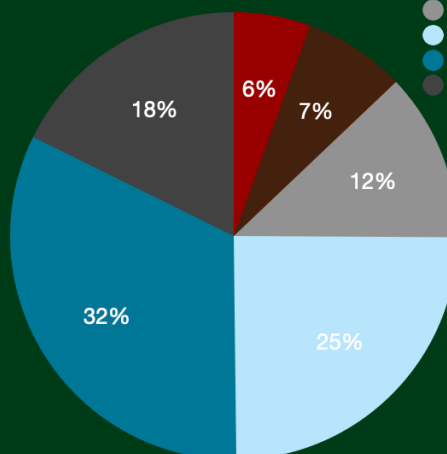


## PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

- American Indian or Native American
- Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latinx
- White
- Multi-racial or Multi-ethnic
- Prefer not to Answer



- Conservative Republican
- Moderate/Lean Republican
- Independent
- Moderate/Lean Democrat
- Liberal Democrat
- Prefer not to answer



# CATALYZING ADVOCACY

## THE JOY & POWER OF CONNECTIONS

After nearly 300 hours of Zoom Network discussions since the pandemic began, the Network was Reunited in the Rockies for the first time *in-person* in nearly two years. The 2021 PIE Network Summit **balanced time to make connections** with trusted peers and partners **and to test ideas** for the coming year. The agenda featured discussions on the most challenging topics of the day, including: working to solve problems across lines of difference, where voters find common ground around race in K-12 education, lessons learned from leading policy and advocacy campaigns—featuring the entire slate of *Eddies!* finalists—and science-based strategies to avoid burnout and sustain impactful leadership.

## PARTICIPANTS SAID

"The PIE Network staff curated an incredible experience for learning, connecting, and refueling. I couldn't stop smiling as the entire experience brought me so much joy and filled me with hope, ideas, connections, and a desire to contribute to this work in new and deliberate ways. Thank you for this gift!"

"After a really difficult 18 months, it was great to get some strategies on how to avoid burnout."

"The session on federal policy and accountability definitely alerted me to the urgent need to push ED to act on spring 2022 testing."

"I loved finally meeting people in person who I have zoomed with for ages. I'm realizing the breadth of ideas and synchrony amongst our issues in education overall."

"I can't thank you enough for putting on such an excellent conference in the midst of the pandemic. It fed my soul to be back in a room with so many people working on behalf of kids."

"I will be connecting with a few different advocacy organizations from other states in the future to hear how things are going and what can be learned from them in the work."

"I appreciated the way the summit was designed and the focus on the 'big' things both at the forefront and background of our work. So much is needed from advocates and this is the fuel we desperately needed while we continue to navigate the pandemic and its aftermath. So the only real thing to say here is thank you for making us remember we aren't alone in this work."

"I can't imagine a better conference for my first work travel in two years."



# CELEBRATING ADVOCACY & POLICY CAMPAIGNS FROM 2020 & 2021

Leaders across the country nominated nearly 100 powerful policy and advocacy campaigns from 2020 and 2021 for the *Eddies!* awards. Network members voted for winners in seven categories. At the 2021 PIE Network Summit, we celebrated finalists and announced the winners.

*Read about nominees and winners on the [PIE Network website](#).*

## EDDIES! WINNERS

- **Game Changer Campaign of the Year:** Tennessee SCORE | **Statewide Early Literacy Law**
- **Best Collaboration:** Center for American Progress, United Negro College Fund, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, Education Reform Now (ERN), The Education Trust, Educators for Excellence, and other education policy organizations | **Investing in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) to Increase Diversity in Teaching Workforce**
- **Best Defense:** Advance Illinois, America Succeeds, Center for American Progress, Collaborative for Student Success, Data Quality Campaign, EdAllies, Education Reform Now, Foundation for Excellence in Education, FutureEd, National Center for Learning Disabilities, NewMexicoKidsCAN, TN SCORE, The Education Trust, Thomas B. Fordham Institute | **Defending Assessments**
- **Most Actionable Research:** Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE) | **The Evidence Project**
- **Power to the People Campaign:** The Oakland REACH | **Virtual Family Hub**
- **Breakthrough Advocate of the Year:** **Lakisha Young** | The Oakland REACH
- **Suzanne Kubach PIE Network Weaver of the Year:** **Robin Lake** | Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE)



# THANK YOU, PIE NETWORK FUNDERS & SPONSORS!

PIE Network gratefully acknowledges our Network funders and Summit sponsors, whose support makes our work possible.

## PIE NETWORK FUNDERS

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*

WALTON FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

Chan  
Zuckerberg  
Initiative 

Bloomberg  
Philanthropies

TheJoyce  
Foundation



CHARLES AND LYNN  
SCHUSTERMAN  
FAMILY PHILANTHROPIES

*Carnegie*  
CORPORATION  
OF NEW YORK

## 2021 SUMMIT SPONSORS

 DANIELS FUND®

 CHOICE

  
CHARLES  
KOCH  
INSTITUTE

  
New Meridian

