

A large group of diverse young people, mostly in red t-shirts, are gathered in a room. Many are holding framed certificates that say 'Certificate of Appreciation' and 'DRUM'. In the background, a banner reads 'EDUCATION NOT DEPORTATION!' and 'DRUM'. Some individuals have their fists raised in the air. The scene is brightly lit, likely from a window on the left.

Examples of Youth-Led Organizing

Young Muslim Collective

The YMC is a youth-led grassroots organization that seeks to create racial and change through education and action in the Twin Cities. The YMC's campaigns have targeted the surveillance of Muslim youth in schools and society.

Somali Youth: Suspects or Citizens?

What is the 'Countering Violent Extremism' initiative and what are its impacts?

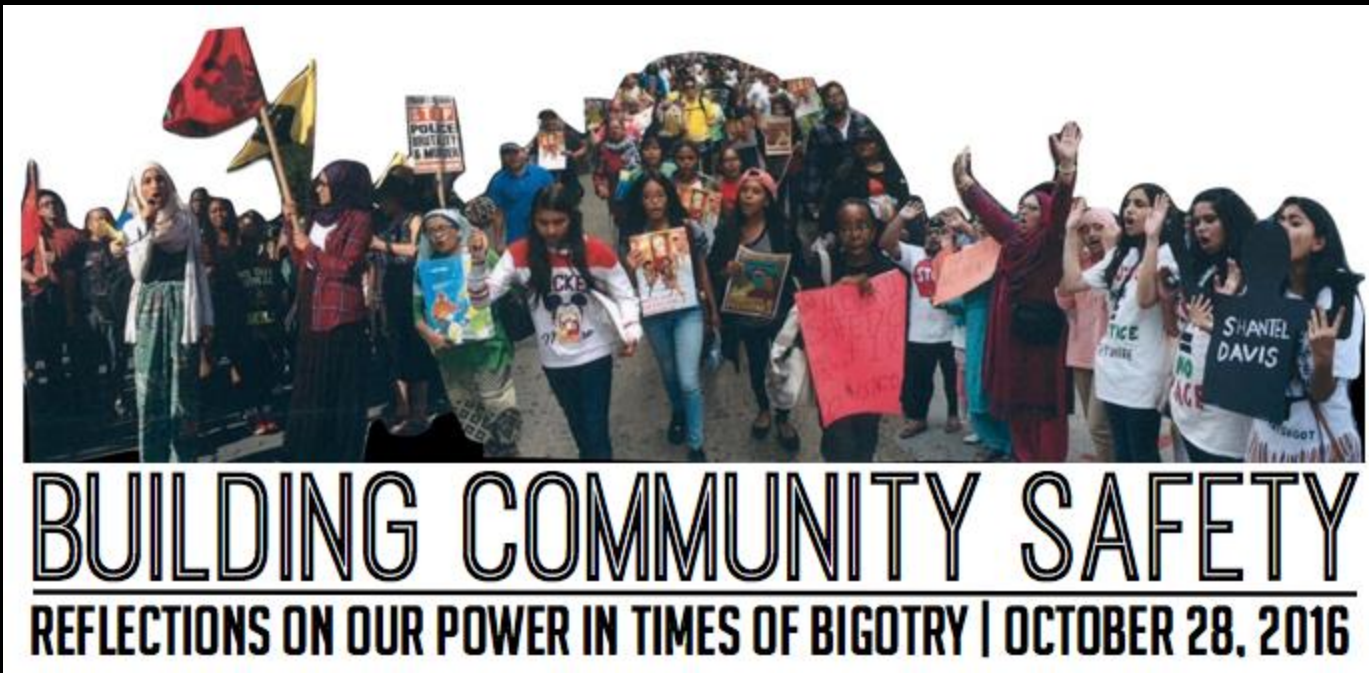
*Tuesday, September 27th
4:30-6:30pm*

Panelists include...

- * **Burhan Mohamed**
(Youth Organizer)
- * **Kafia Ahmed**
(Community Organizer, Consultant)
- * **Dominique Diaddigo-Cash**
(Community Organizer)
- * **Ramla Bile**
(Principal, Qalam Consulting)

**@ CEDAR COMMONS
(2001 Riverside Ave. S)**

With questions, contact cedarcommons@augsbury.edu



YouthPower! is a youth-led program that builds the leadership and power of low-income Desi youth in NYC to win educational and immigrant justice. Through political education and campaign skills development, YouthPower seeks to build a new generation of working-class community leaders, run campaigns led by youth to change public policies that impact their own lives, and build alliances with youth of color across the city and nationally for power.

Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM) YouthPower!

VOYCE's Groundbreaking Bill, SB 100, to Address "School-to-Prison Pipeline" Passes Illinois Legislature

A bill passed by the Illinois House of Representatives on May 20 will require sweeping changes in the use of punitive school discipline practices across the state. Senate Bill 100, which was approved last month in the Senate with bipartisan support, represents perhaps the most aggressive and comprehensive effort ever made by a state to address the "school-to-prison pipeline."

SB 100 prioritizes the creation of safe and orderly schools while seeking to address excessive use of the most severe forms of discipline. Under the legislation students can only be suspended, expelled or referred to an alternative school if all other "appropriate and available" alternatives are exhausted. In other words, suspensions and expulsions become the last resort, rather than the first response.

Additionally, the bill provides struggling students with academic and behavioral supports, and promotes fairness by holding public schools and charter schools to the same standards for school discipline. The final House vote count was 73 yes – 41 no, with broad support from both Republicans and Democrats. SB 100 is now awaiting the Governor's signature.

The effort to pass SB 100 was led by VOYCE (Voices of Youth in Chicago Education), a group of mostly high school students from Chicago. They created the bill in 2012 to address the impact of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions on their peers and schools. For over two years, dozens of students traveled regularly to the Capitol in Springfield to educate their legislators on how disciplinary practices were pushing students out of school and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

Dalia Mena, an 18 year old member of VOYCE from Steinmetz High School stated that, "For too long, harsh school discipline practices have contributed to the under-education and over-criminalization of young people, and especially youth of color," said Dalia. "Illinois legislators have demonstrated that by listening to students, we can create schools where all students are valued and supported in their learning. SB 100 makes Illinois go from one of the worst states when it comes to overusing exclusionary discipline, to being a national leader with a model for other states to follow."

Illinois has one of the widest disparities between suspended black and white students in the country, according to the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights. In the 2012-13 school year, Chicago Public Schools issued 32 out-of-school suspensions for every 100 black students, compared to just five for every 100 white students. Overall, Illinois students lose over one million instructional days per year as a result of suspensions, expulsions and arrests.

"In schools all across our state, African-American students are disciplined more harshly than white students. As legislators, we saw that this was a serious problem—and that it required our immediate attention. We went to work engaging educators, administrators, parents, students and experts to help us build support for SB 100. Through that process and hard work, we have passed SB 100, a common sense solution to ending this disparity and making our schools safer and stronger. Thanks to SB 100, Illinois is a national leader with a model piece of legislation," said Senator Kimberly Lightford, chief sponsor of

VOYCE: Voices of Youth in Chicago Education

"Since student leaders launched VOYCE in 2007, our vision for change has been driven by the belief that those most affected by educational inequities – the students themselves – hold the solutions to creating a high-quality education system. Using innovative, youth-led research, an equity lens and action, VOYCE brings students together from across the city to push for systemic changes that ensure every Chicago student has access to an excellent education."

This has included passing the landmark Senate Bill 100 which seeks to rein in the harsh disciplining of Chicago students

Erase the Database

Organized Communities Against Deportations (OCAD), Black Youth Project 100 (BYP 100), and Mijente have been leading a local campaign urging the city of Chicago expand what it means to be a “Sanctuary City” to protect immigrants and US born people of color, particularly those who are targeted by local police. Exposing and eliminating the gang database has jumped to the top of the agenda this week after it became clear that Mr. Catalan-Ramirez’s targeting by ICE was in part a responsibility of the Chicago police.



THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROJECT: CULINARY DENIAL

Created by Civics students at Roosevelt High School, Chicago, IL

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Students at Roosevelt High School created a website that identified:

- **What's wrong** with their school lunches provided by a new company, Aramark, rather than Chicago Public Schools chefs
- **Their position** on school lunches, emphasizing that their food is neither tasty nor delicious
- **Alternative options**, like off-campus lunch, a snack kiosk, and general changes to the school lunch program like offering juice or water, improving the quality of food, and providing dessert

The School Lunch Project



NO COP ACADEMY

Join the effort to stop the construction of a \$95 million dollar Cop Academy, and fund youth & communities instead.

The #NoCopAcademy campaign is a youth-led effort supported by community organizations across Chicago, that want to see \$95 million invested in our communities rather than police training grounds. This has included canvassing, hosting teach-ins, conducting research, holding press conferences, creating Twitter campaigns, marching in the streets, participating in city council meetings, and writing reports, among many other actions.