

THE CONVENING

THE POWER OF ASCENSION

Fueling Our Rise for the Next Decade

*At the heart of every revolution lies a **simple idea**, nurtured into a **powerful movement**.*

Join us as we celebrate the extraordinary movement of leaders of color who are transforming the education landscape. This year, as we mark the culmination of Surge Institute's 10th Anniversary, we are thrilled to invite you to the 2025 Alumni Convening: **The Power of Ascension**. Together, in Scottsdale, Arizona, we will breathe, bond, and bring to life the power of our shared vision as we prepare to rise to even greater heights. This convening will serve as a space for retreating to replenish our strength, reflecting to deepen our connections, and reimagining the future to transform our communities. Over the past decade, Surge has grown from a bold idea to a transformative network of nearly **450 alumni** who have impacted over **3 million young lives**. The Power of Ascension will bring together our alumni community, faculty, board, and staff to celebrate the achievements of our leaders, empower our communities, and shape the future of education. We invite you to explore how your partnership can sustain and amplify this movement. Together, we will cultivate visionary leaders, build environments where Black and Brown leaders thrive, and enact profound, lasting change. Thank you for your unwavering support of this transformative journey.

With gratitude,
Carmita Semaan
Founder & CEO



The Convening is...

Ascension is not a solitary act; it's a shared journey. As we commemorate Surge's 10th anniversary, we reflect on a decade of rising together and empowering leaders of color to transform education. At the 2025 Alumni Convening, we celebrate **The Power of Ascension**, this collective strength that has fueled our movement. Together, in Scottsdale, Arizona, we will breathe, bond, and bring to life the power of our shared vision as we prepare to rise to even greater heights. Through retreating, we replenish our strength. Through reflecting, we deepen our connection. And through reimagining, we shape the future of our communities. This convening is dedicated to amplifying the work of our leaders, empowering our communities, and transforming the future of education! This Convening brings together our alumni community, faculty, board, and staff, and is dedicated to amplifying the work of our leaders, empowering our communities, and transforming the future of education!

THE
CONVENING
THE POWER OF ASCENSION

SURGE
INSTITUTE





Aija Simmons
(OAK20)



The Alumni Convening was designed to further ignite and inspire the genius we have yet to birth by affirming the genius we already manifest. It is clear by the quality of experience that Surge both believes in our collective genius while simultaneously holding our history and humanity. I am better just by being in this space. The icing on the cake is that my daughter who was traveling with me gets to see me surrounded by excellent Black and Brown leaders whose legacy is pointed toward creating pathways for the emerging brilliance of her generation and the ones after her.

Reflection from 2023 Alumni Convening





1 to 10

For **10 years** Surge Institute has diligently been providing a space for educational leaders of color to breathe, think, release, bond, see themselves and be seen.

The outcome is a coalition of leaders that are strong, healthy, focused, energized and transforming the educational landscape as we know it. And now we get to build on this amazing foundation.

Now the real adventure begins.

This is the 2025 Convening: The Power of Ascension

Surge is on a Mission...

To educate and develop leaders of color who create transformative change for young people, their families, and our broader communities.

Surge Institute continuously innovates to develop more efficient and effective pathways, bringing powerful solutions that transcend current states and establish new paradigms. This relentless pursuit of innovation is focused on empowering leaders of color who are committed to enhancing educational and developmental outcomes for children in communities of color, ensuring transformative change and sustained impact.

**THE
CONVENING**
THE POWER OF ASCENSION

SURGE 
INSTITUTE



Joining Surge as a sponsor offers a **unique opportunity to be part of a movement reshaping education for communities of color. Here's the impact sponsors can make:**



EMPOWER LEADERS OF COLOR

Your sponsorship directly contributes to the development and support of educational leaders of color. These leaders are on the front lines, making transformative changes in our schools and communities, ensuring every child has the opportunity to succeed.

FOSTER SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Sponsorship funds are critical in our efforts to address and dismantle systemic barriers in education. By partnering with us, sponsors play a key role in creating a more equitable and just educational landscape for all.

VISIBILITY AND RECOGNITION

Sponsors will receive acknowledgement across a variety of platforms and materials associated with The Convening event. This includes digital and print media, event signage, and verbal recognition during the event, highlighting your commitment to educational equality and leadership development.

HOW TO SUPPORT

Cost of attendance for each alumni is roughly \$2,500; this includes their registration fee, meals, activities and hotel stay. **With your support we can reach our goal of 70% attendance to the 2025 convening.**

INNOVATE

\$50,000

Fully funds attendance and lodging for a high need member of every Surge Alumni cohort.

FUEL

\$25,000

Fully funds attendance and lodging for 10 alumni.

IGNITE

\$10,000

Provides a honorarium for 20 alumni speakers and presenters.

ELEVATE

\$5,000

Provides travel stipends to ensure attendance for alumni with financial need.

CONNECT

\$2,500

Funds curated wellness experiences, such as mindfulness sessions or fitness activities, for attendees.

**THE
CONVENING**
THE POWER OF ASCENSION

SURGE
INSTITUTE

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES	Innovate \$50,000	Fuel \$25,000	Ignite \$10,000	Elevate \$5,000	Connect \$2,500
Brand placement on digital pre-event materials	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recognition in event Press Release	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Opportunity to have swag distributed	✓	✓	✓		
Name on Signage at Event & Event Communications	✓	✓	✓		
Digital Ad during event	✓	✓			
Recognition in post recap video	✓				
Access to exclusive VIP Reception	✓				

Special Visibility and Recognition for Sponsors

Sponsors will receive acknowledgment across a variety of platforms and materials associated with The Convening event. This includes digital and print media, event signage, and verbal recognition during the event, highlighting your commitment to educational equality and leadership development.

In addition, at the 2025 Convening, we are proud to offer the following Special Brand and Sponsorship Opportunities to amplify your brand.

LEVEL \$5,000 & ABOVE

Sponsors at the \$5,000 level or above will have the opportunity to sponsor one of the following sessions at The Convening:

- Impact Community Happy Hour
- First-Time Attendee Welcome Reception

LEVEL \$25,000 & ABOVE

Sponsors at the \$25,000 level or above will have the opportunity to sponsor one of the following sessions at The Convening:

- General Welcome Reception
- Main Stage Sessions
- Founders Networking Fair
- Swag Bag (and include company logo on one item)

LEVEL \$50,000 & ABOVE

Sponsors at the \$50,000 level or above will have the opportunity to have their logo added to one swag item provided to event attendees and/or host a breakout session during the event.

SAVE THE DATE!

May 8-10, 2025

Fairmount
Scottsdale
Princess

Scottsdale, Arizona



THE CONVENING

THE POWER OF ASCENSION



Visit our sponsorship landing page and choose your support level.

Tiara Wheatley

Vice President, Alumni Impact, 2020 Alumna

tiara@surgeinstitute.org

(773) 419-4463

surgeinstitute.org/convening/

"As a proud Surge alum, I know the transformative power of this community to inspire, connect, and drive change. Now, leading this work, I see how investing in Surge amplifies a collective vision that transforms not just education but entire communities. Supporting this convening means fueling the Power of Ascension—an investment in the visionary leaders of color who are shaping a brighter, more equitable future for generations to come."

-Tiara Wheatley

**THE
CONVENING**
THE POWER OF ASCENSION

SURGE 
INSTITUTE