

# THE DIVERSITY FORUM

*Supporting a Christlike  
Understanding of Differences*

*Sponsored by Orlean Beeson School of Education & the Office of Student Success & Diversity  
Supported by the Louie M. and Betty M. Phillips Foundation*

**8:00-8:30**

**Registration & Breakfast**

**8:30-9:00**

**Welcome & Introductions**

**9:00-10:00**

**Keynote Speaker, Dr. Natasha Crain, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, Marshall ISD**

*Dr. NaTasha Crain is a dedicated instructional leader with over 20 years of experience in K-12 education, specializing in curriculum development, instructional leadership, and educator capacity-building. She currently serves as the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, where she leads efforts to enhance academic achievement, equity, and innovation in education.*

**10:00-10:15**

**Break**

**10:15-11:00**

**Breakout Session 1**

**Session A:** *Family Resource Management presented by Dr. Kayla Wenth, Assistant Professor in Human Development and Family Science, Samford University*

**Session B:** *A Brief Overview of Challenges and Socio-economic Stratification for K-12 Students Engaging in Arts Extracurriculars in Alabama presented by Rosalie Anthony, Program Assistant, Office of Student Success & Diversity, Samford University*

**Session C:** *Unequal Access: The Influence of Gender, Race, and Zip Code on Accommodation Eligibility presented by Alyssa Snyder, Associate Director, Accessibility and Accommodations & Christa Chery, LMSW Upward Bound Math & Science Assistant Director, TRIO Academic Services at UAB*

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**11:00-11:45**

**Panel 1: Samford Cares Pantry**

*presented by April Robinson, Hannah Newman, & Katelyn Hayes, Samford University*

**12:00-1:00**

**Lunch**

**1:15-2:00**

**Breakout Session 2**

**Session A:** *Building Techquity: Leveraging Technology to Support Diverse Socioeconomic Backgrounds*  
*presented by Matt Wilson & Ashlee Elliot, Instructional Technology Coaches, Shelby County Schools*

**Session B:** *Leveling the Learning Field: Enhancing Language Skills and Background Knowledge for Students in Low-Income Communities*  
*presented by Lindsay Self, CALT, Exceptional Education Specialist, Jefferson County Board of Education*

**2:15-3:00**

**Panel 2: An Administrator's Perspective**

*presented by Lindsay Self, Exceptional Education Specialist, Jefferson County Board of Education; Andrea Hamner, Principal, Huntington Place Elementary School, & Melissa Wallis, Samford University*

**3:00-4:00**

**Closing Remarks**

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**Samford University**  
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