



Family Action Network (FAN), in partnership with Erikson Institute, the Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University, Evanston Township High School D202, Master of Science in Education Program at Northwestern University, North Shore Academy, and Youth Organizations Umbrella (Y.O.U.) present:

The Essential Conversation: What Parents and Teachers Can Learn From Each Other

Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, Ed.D.

Emily Hargroves Fisher Professor of Education, Harvard University

Tuesday, September 30, 2014

7:00 PM

**Evanston Township High School
1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston**

Free and open to the public.

CPDUs available for educators.

INFO: familyactionnetwork.net

FOLLOW-UP PANEL DISCUSSION!

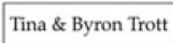
**“Harnessing the Power of Parents Through
Community Schools: A Case Study from
Chicago’s North Suburbs”**

Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 7:00 PM

**Joseph E. Hill Education Center
1500 McDaniel Ave., Evanston**

With Paul Goren, Ph.D.

*Evanston-Skokie D65 Superintendent,
and other community leaders.*





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tuesday, September 30, 2014, The Essential Conversation: What Parents and Teachers Can Learn From Each Other, 7:00 PM, Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, 60201. In her hugely influential 2003 book, *The Essential Conversation: What Parents and Teachers Can Learn From Each Other*, **Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, Ed.D.**, chooses an unusual term to describe the relationship between parents and teachers: “natural enemies,” inevitably adversarial because a parent’s view of their child is highly subjective, intimate, protective, and very loving, whereas a teacher’s view of the same child is more distant and dispassionate, balancing the needs of individual students with the development of the classroom community. While both are striving for “the best interest of the child,” what that means for each can produce conflict and distrust. Together with what Dr. Lawrence-Lightfoot labels the “ghosts in the classroom,” the “generational echoes” of autobiography, culture, class, identity and values, these dynamics, and others, create powerful forces that shape the quality and tone of parent-teacher encounters.

Dr. Lawrence-Lightfoot is the **Emily Hargroves Fisher Professor of Education at Harvard University**, where she has been on the faculty since 1972. An educator, researcher, author, and public intellectual, she has written nine books, including *Worlds Apart: Relationships Between Families and Schools* (1978) and *The Good High School: Portraits of Character and Culture* (1983), which received the 1984 Outstanding Book Award from the American Educational Research Association. In 1984, she was the recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Prize, and in 1993 she was awarded Harvard’s George Ledlie Prize given for research that makes the “most valuable contribution to science” and “the benefit of mankind.”

In 1993, the Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot Chair, an endowed professorship, was established at her alma mater Swarthmore College and, in 1998, she was the recipient of the Emily Hargroves Fisher Endowed Chair at Harvard University, which upon her retirement will become the Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot Endowed Chair, making her the first African-American woman in Harvard’s history to have an endowed professorship named in her honor. She received her doctorate in the sociology of education at Harvard in 1972.

FOLLOW-UP PANEL DISCUSSION: Tuesday, October 14, 2014, Harnessing the Power of Parents Through Community Schools: A Case Study from Chicago’s North Suburbs, 7:00 PM, Joseph E. Hill Education Center, 1500 McDaniel Ave., Evanston, 60202. As a follow-up to Dr. Lawrence-Lightfoot’s talk, join us for an interactive presentation and discussion about how schools in Evanston and Skokie are embracing the Community Schools approach to engage parents as leaders in their schools and communities. The event will feature Evanston-Skokie D65 Superintendent Paul Goren, Ph.D. and experts from United Way, Y.O.U., and Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI).

Sponsored by **Family Action Network (FAN)**, in partnership with **Erikson Institute**, the **Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University**, **Evanston Township High School D202**, **Master of Science in Education Program at Northwestern University**, **North Shore Academy**, and **Youth Organizations Umbrella (Y.O.U.)**. FAN is grateful for the support of its 2014-15 financial sponsors **Compass Health Center**, **Evanston Township High School D202**, **Evanston/Skokie D65**, **New Trier High School D203**, **New Trier Parents’ Association**, **North Shore Community Bank**, **Pathways.org**, **The Family Institute at Northwestern University**, **Youth Organizations Umbrella (Y.O.U.)**, the **Martin & Mary L. Boyer Foundation**, the **Mammel Foundation**, and **Tina & Byron Trott**, along with our in-kind sponsors **Acclaim Media**, **The Book Stall at Chestnut Court**, **Kirkland & Ellis, LLP**, and **Turing Group**.

