Defining Us uses the power of media and the promise of education to inspire educators to join the conversation on the socio-political cultural issues that matter. In this episode of Defining Us…Stacey DeWitt is joined by Troy Keller, a Director of Special Education for Maryland’s Frederick County Public Schools. In the conversation, Stacey and Troy discuss the changed landscape of public education, the educator’s role in supporting students more holistically, and why our students with disabilities – and all students - need us to go all in on their behalf.

Powerful Moments
Throughout this podcast there are powerful moments that provide deeper insight into the individuals and topics discussed in this podcast.

- 3:19 – Vulnerability and Trust
- 7:07 – A Whole Child Approach is our Obligation
- 9:15 - Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs and Special Needs
- 12:11 – A Changed Educational Landscape
- 17:06 – Debunking the Myths
- 24:16 – Why Attending to Needs Matters
- 28:55 – The Continuum of Services is Individualized
- 37:35 – Navigating Differences for Full Potential
- 43:05 – Equity in the Field
- 54:55 – Inclusion Helps All Learn
- 1:02:05 – Pearls of the Pandemic

Critical Reflection Questions (During and After the Listening)
Use the following critical reflection questions to make deeper meaning of the topics discussed in this episode.

- How do my own identity, experiences and knowledge influence my understanding of this topic?
- How does this topic connect with my current context?
- What are the implications to my practice?
- How will I continue the conversation in my school/community/organization?

Inside the Conversation
Want to know more? Continue the learning with some of the important individuals, organizations, and topics discussed in this episode.

National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorder
Autism PDC
Council for Exceptional Children
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