

# Defining | US

## Interview Clips Transcriptions

**Alison Yohimoto-Towery**, *Chief Academic Officer, LA Unified School District*

Clip #1

Duration 0:13

“Let’s be real... fear is a survival skill. Fear is a part of being human, and we have to acknowledge that... but we also need to overcome it. And we need to address it and we need to talk about it.”

Clip #2

Duration 0:31

“If race is the biggest predictor of how I’m going to succeed or not, then you’re already telling me, based on my race, this is my outcome. The past should not predict our future, and that is why right now is the time to act. We need to take action and do something different so that we don’t get the same results. Race, zip code, poverty, parent education should not predict a student’s future.”

**Angel Diaz**, *Student*

Duration 0:13

“There’s a lot of stereotypes on Latino and Black men. And, you know, sometimes I understand where they come from, but then, you always have to say ‘don’t judge a book by its cover.’ “

**Bennett Lieberman**, *Principal, Central Park East High School, NYC Dept. of Education*

Duration 1:08

“A statistic that I like to repeat often is for a young black or brown boy, in New York City, in uptown Manhattan or in the Bronx, they have a one-in-ten chance of graduating from college, from the moment they’re born. I can tell you, from my experience with my students, that as they’ve grown up, they haven’t been treated equally... and unless you stand in their shoes I don’t think you can really know what it’s like.”

**George Patterson, Sr.** *Director, My Brother’s Keeper, NYC Dept. of Education*

Duration 0:35

“What we want to do is bring everyone together... and say listen, we can achieve this American Dream, right. America was created as almost, like, a, you know, this is going to be an example of what we could be. So, yeah, let’s be that example. And we want it to be inclusive of all -- Male, female, black, white, gay, straight—because we know pain, we know poverty. Who better to lead than those that have experienced the worst?”

# Defining | US

Interview Clips Transcriptions

**Kenyatte Reid**, *Exec. Director, Office of Safety & Youth Development, NYC Dept. of Education*

Duration 0:16

“We have a long history of using fear to prevent progress, versus using a hope and belief in our children, and an investment in them to really dictate where we go, and how we move in the future.

**Lester W. Young**, *Regent-At-Large, NYS Board of Regents*

Duration 0:12

“We should see education as a vehicle for Liberation. Liberation is not an individual thing, it’s a collective thing.”

**Mahaliel Bethea, ED.D**, *Director, My Brother’s Keeper, NYC Dept. of Education*

Duration 0:54

“What MBK is doing at all levels is really working to say how do we grow young men of color...so that they are ready to enter the conversation? –Not just within their own community, but the national conversation, the state conversation, the local conversations, um, conversations with groups that they don’t share lines of similarity with. I think what we’re seeing is we’re seeing young people, um, and in particular we’re seeing young men of color, saying no, I now need to step into this. And yes, this is the new civil rights. This is the way that we, um, spread our message. This is the way that we ensure that people see us and understand the why of what we’re doing. Um, and ultimately this is how we’re going to make changes.”