



**For Immediate Release: November 9, 2023**

Media Contact: Marisol Ramos-Lopez, 585-455-2844, [Marisol.Lopez@rcsdk12.org](mailto:Marisol.Lopez@rcsdk12.org)

**RCSD Hosts Collective Care Conference with Dr. Dena Simmons**

**Who:**

Keynote speaker Dr. Dena Simmons, an activist dedicated to the principles of collective care  
RCSD students, families, and staff

**What:** Collective Care Conference

**When:** Saturday, November 11, 2023, 8 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Where:**

Monroe Community College - Brighton Campus  
1000 East Henrietta Road  
Rochester, NY 14623

**Details:**

The RCSD is hosting a Collective Care Conference on Saturday, November 11, which is open to all students, families, and staff in the District and anyone who cares about, loves, or works with youth in the community. The idea is to embrace collective care and how to engage and look out for one another in hard times when the world can feel “heavy.”

The keynote speaker for this conference is Dr. Dena Simmons, a visionary thought leader and activist who has dedicated her life to the principles of collective care. Additionally, there will be engaging workshops where participants will learn practical strategies for building resilience, empathy, and trust within the community. This will include workshops with:

- Anderson Allen: a spoken wordsmith, slam poet, actor, mentor, and teaching artist.
- Anthony Hall: a dedicated family man, community leader, and advocate who is known as a humble hero. He grew up on the Northeast side of Rochester in the F.I.G.H.T Village Housing projects.
- Simone Gamble: a community organizer and educator who resides in New York City with roots in the South Bronx.

The conference will include thought-provoking discussions featuring RCSD students, which will be facilitated by School Board Member Elect Isaiah Santiago, a School of the Arts graduate. Additionally, there will be networking opportunities where individuals and organizations will share their passion for collective care. Professional development credits are available for all eligible staff members.

Office of Communications  
Rochester City School District  
131 West Broad Street  
Rochester, NY 14614  
585-262-8162