

June 1-3, 2021

**EDUCATION AS A PROTECTIVE INFLUENCE FOR
VULNERABLE YOUTH POPULATIONS**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Isaiah Pickens, Ph.D.

iOpening Enterprises

Dr. Isaiah Pickens is the founder and CEO of iOpening Enterprises, a professional development and media company that specializes in building the capacity of individuals and organizations to unlock their potential using psychological science, implementation best practices, and inspirational media. In this capacity, Dr. Pickens has developed the Bridge Trauma-Informed Culturally-Responsive (TICR) Program, a multi-day professional development program for educators that provides a practical toolkit for managing youth traumatic stress responses in the school setting. Additionally, Dr. Pickens has developed a curriculum for justice professionals as well as organizations across sectors to promote workplace wellness through a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) lens. As a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Leader and Fellow, Dr. Pickens works collaboratively with cross-sector scholars and practitioners to promote a culture of health in America.



Dr. Pickens currently sits on the National Board for Communities In Schools (CIS) and has been awarded by the American Psychological Association Early Career Achievement Award and the Black Enterprise BE Modern Man award for his contributions to the field of psychology. As former Assistant Director at the UCLA-Duke National Center for Child Traumatic Stress—the coordinating site of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), and a former clinical assistant professor at NYU School of Medicine, Dr. Pickens has built a reputation as a national trauma expert and shares practical science-informed lessons about mental wellness with audiences around the world. Dr. Pickens aims to continue working toward systemic change and unlocking people's potential by moving the world from happy to healthy through psychological science.

A virtual forum hosted by the New York State Youth Justice Institute