



Wednesday, May 25, 2022

Good evening,

I am writing to announce that Partners for Educational Leadership must postpone tomorrow's First Annual Dudley N. Williams Jr. Award and Lecture. This was a very difficult decision to make, as we have all looked forward to this celebration of our beloved Dudley, the honoring of the incomparable Dr. James Comer, and learning from Dr. Jamila Dugan.

Dr. Comer's family is facing a sudden health crisis. At Partners, our priority is their wellness, and our thoughts go out to the full Comer family.

This decision was not entirely about the Comer family. Across the state, spikes in positive Covid cases have put an extra burden on already strained and stressed educators, many of whom were registered to be with us Thursday evening.

Moreover, the murder of innocent children and educators in Texas is weighing heavily on everyone. Families are worried. Teachers are nervous. Students are confused. As far as Texas is from Connecticut--geographically speaking--we know this kind of violence hits all too close to home. This is putting additional pressures on educational leaders to stay home and be present.

In the coming days, we will regroup and determine how best to honor Dudley and celebrate the immense legacy of James Comer.

Many of you paid registration fees to attend the event. We ask that you use the following form to indicate whether you would like us to (1) refund the fee, (2) donate the fee to cover costs of future Williams Awards, or (3) contribute to the families of those lost in Texas.

<https://forms.gle/vC8nYXN6dq6S89yo7>

In partnership,  
Richard Lemons