



# Eastern Regional Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS



## Heather McGhee

Ms. McGhee speaks on Thursday, August 19 at noon.

A renowned expert on the American economy, Heather McGhee is one of the most brilliant and influential thinkers exploring inequality today. Both her viral TED talk and her bestselling book, *The Sum Of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, reveal the devastating true cost of racism for everyone — not just for people of color. In the book, McGhee illuminates how racism is at the root of some of our most vexing public problems, from collapsing infrastructure to rising student debt.

McGhee is the former president of the inequality-focused think tank Demos. She has drafted legislation, testified before Congress, and become a regular contributor on shows like *Meet the Press* and *Real Time with Bill Maher*. She also led Demos' own racial equity organizational transformation, resulting in a doubling of the organization's racial diversity and growth across all measures of organizational impact. McGhee's riveting talks communicate this with passion and seriousness, "challenging the paradigm of racial competition in this country." Racism doesn't just hurt us on a personal level, she says, it divides and alienates companies and their employees, employees and their clients, clients and brands. The trickledown, she explains, is far-reaching.

McGhee holds a B.A. in American Studies from Yale University and a J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley School of Law. She is the chair of the board of Color of Change, the country's largest online racial justice organization, and serves on multiple other boards of trustees, including the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and Demos. For the latest updates on Heather's writing, speeches, and media appearances, visit [www.heathermcghee.com](http://www.heathermcghee.com).