



Christie (Tourella) Smith is joined by her family at the Geneva 2030 summit. From left, her father Rigo Tourella, her husband Christopher and their two children, her mother Virginia Tourella, and HWS Colleges President Mark D. Gearan.

## **Annual Geneva 2030 Summit: Shaping Our Shared Commitment to Geneva's Youth**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Sept. 27, 2023*

The annual Geneva 2030 Summit was held recently at the Bozzuto Center, and included representatives from the organization's executive board, advisory board, and six action teams. Close to 50 attendees gathered to review data, discuss strategy, and learn more about the StriveTogether network. This annual event brought together thought leaders from across Geneva to address pressing challenges and opportunities, envisioning ways to harness our collective interest and commitment to the 'cradle to career' success of Geneva's youth.

The summit's highlight was a keynote address by a Geneva native Christie Smith, Associate Vice President of Undergraduate Enrollment at Nazareth University, who spoke about her experience as a child enrolled at Geneva Head Start, acknowledging exceptional teachers she had throughout her time in GCSD schools, and highlighting her family's involvement in her success. "I'm going to challenge all of you to dig deep, to push back, and to challenge the broken systems that exist within this community—because they do" she noted, and received a standing ovation at the conclusion her remarks. GCSD Superintendent Bo Wright also engaged participants in the district priorities, "safe, positive learning environments, academic achievement, and equity and inclusion."



*Christie Smith*

The objectives of the day were to strengthen Geneva 2030's ability to collaborate to include community voice, intentionally reach equity-focused goals and celebrate successes. President Gearan acknowledged [Dr. Phil Breitfeld's](#) contributions as a generous donor to Geneva 2030 and as a valued thought partner. Breakout sessions included information about StriveTogether's Theory of Action, Results Based Facilitation resources and the organization's approach to collaborative improvement, as well as a facilitated workshop by on idea generation by Geneva 2030 supporters, Craig Talmage, Associate Professor of Management and Entrepreneurship at Hobart and William Smith Colleges and Amy Forbes, Director, Strategic Custom Programs at Cornell University

Please join us on 11/1 at 3:30 for our next community convening, co-hosted by Success for Geneva's Children. For registration email [geneva2030@hws.edu](mailto:geneva2030@hws.edu). The recording of keynote is available here <https://youtu.be/oKOiZeuj7vE>. To learn more about Geneva 2030, community data, or join an action team, visit <https://genevacollectiveimpact.com/>.

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