

Joe Rogers, Jr. is the founder and facilitator of Total Equity Now, a nonprofit organization that empowers Harlemites and other Uptowners as active participants and decision makers in advancing educational excellence and equity. He also serves as a senior researcher and civic-engagement specialist with the Campaign for Educational Equity at Teachers College, Columbia University.

After starting a career in education as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Georgetown University's Volunteer and Public Service Center, Joe went on to launch and manage a Literacy*AmeriCorps program for D.C. LEARNs, a coalition of community-based adult, child, and family literacy service providers in the nation's capital. In more recent years, Joe has served as director of policy and civic engagement with Education Voters of New York, a program associate in Teaching and Learning at New Visions for Public Schools, and a strategic-planning consultant to several nonprofit organizations in New York City.

A former co-chair of Manhattan Community Board 9's Youth, Education and Libraries Committee, representing West Harlem, Joe joined the board of directors of the Harlem Council of Elders, a nonprofit organization that engages senior citizens in facilitating and strengthening learning opportunities for children, in January 2014. A strong advocate for mentoring, Joe has mentored an elementary-school student in Harlem for over four years, including three years with The Brotherhood-Sister Sol, a Harlem-based youth-development organization. He is also a sought-after speaker and panelist, delivering remarks and engaging in public discussions at schools, colleges, and universities several times a year.

A 2011 graduate of Coro Leadership New York's policy-leadership program, Joe holds a Master's degree in Education Leadership, Policy, and Politics from Teachers College, Columbia University. On February 21, 2014 TC's Black Student Network awarded him with the 2014 Black Excellence Community Service Award, for his contributions to Harlem. Joe also holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from The George Washington University, whose Black Alumni Association awarded him in 2010 its highest honor for his distinguished service and activism toward improving educational opportunities for young people.