

Schedule for Professional Development Conference on Diversity

Day One: (8am – 4pm)

Session 1: General Welcome/Sleeter & Grant's Approaches to Multicultural Education: 8 am-10 am

Break: 10 am- 10:15 am

Session 2: Characteristics of Multicultural Education as defined by Nieto: 10:15 am-12:15 pm

Lunch: 12:15 pm-1:15pm

Session 3: Making Test Prep More Relevant to a Diverse Population: 1:15-3:15 pm

Break: 3:15-3:30 pm

Closing: Perceptions and Stereotypes: 3:30- 4pm

Day Two: (8 am- 4pm)

Session 4: Developing Student Leaders: Dancing to Different Beats: 8 am-10 am

Break: 10 am- 10:15 am

Session 5: Forms of Teacher Activism: 10:15 am-12:15 pm

Lunch: 12:15 pm-1:15pm

Session 6: Community History and Culture: 1:15-3:15 pm

Break: 3:15-3:30 pm

Closing: Commitments to Multicultural Social Justice: 3:30-4pm

Day Three: (8am-12 pm)

Session 7: Tolerance in Your Classroom and School: Reducing Stereotyping and Bullying: 8 am-10 am

Break: 10 am- 10:15 am

Session 8: Putting Together the Pieces: How to Address Issues of Cultural Difference in the Classroom:

10:15 am-12 pm

Descriptions of Each Session

Session 1: General Welcome/Sleeter & Grant's Approaches to Multicultural Education

Presenter: Alissa Hamilton

In our diverse society, we as educators need to teach to all the children in our classrooms. Sleeter & Grant give five different approaches to multicultural education in their book *Making Choices for Multicultural Education: Five Approaches to Race, Class and Gender*. In this session we will cover each approach that Sleeter & Grant present, discuss its implementation and give examples of its use in the classroom. Attendees will be able to discuss their own ideas of using each approach in their classroom.

Session 2: Characteristics of Multicultural Education as defined by Nieto

Presenter: John Bonhom

This session focuses on understanding what multicultural education is by looking at some of its characteristics. In exploring those different characteristics of multicultural education, workshop participants work toward building a deeper understanding of multicultural education as a framework for implementing a multicultural curriculum. This session challenges participants to move from simply thinking about multicultural education as race education and beginning to explore its many facets. The hope of this session is that it will help teachers understand their part in helping multicultural education be successful in the classroom and in their educational community.

Session 3: Making Test Preparation More Relevant to A Diverse Population

Presenter: Christine Karn

It is evident that we live in diverse society. Also clear is the fact that the culture of education is currently in a state of reform. An accountability movement spurred by federal policy has changed the way we teach, and the focus on test preparation is not benefiting all students. It is the intention of this workshop to invite teachers to examine how test preparation is currently utilized in the classroom, and to brainstorm ways in which they can transform test preparation materials to meet the needs and interests of all students. The workshop will present ideas from Christine Sleeter's research as well as original test preparation items.

Please note: Full-size copies of power point presentation will be available for each attendee.

Closing Session Day One: Perceptions and Stereotypes

Presenter: John Bonhom

In this short closing session, attendees will participate in an activity that deals with perceptions and stereotypes. The point of this session is to show how we perceive people and how those perceptions can alter the way we look at individuals who maybe within that group. This is especially important when you talk about teachers in the classroom because we need to look at each student as an individual and not have preconceived notions of who they are.

Session 4: Developing Student Leaders: Dancing to Different Beats

Presenter: Ashley Talley

The objective of this seminar is to present one activity that acknowledges and celebrates unique and culturally derived styles of leadership. The underlying assumption is that culture influences the ways in which we develop comprehension, interpretation, and self-presentation skills. The relationship between leadership style and cultural literacy capital will be discussed; as well as methods of avoiding cultural essentialism and obsolete models of “cultural dimensions”.

Session 5: Forms of Teacher Activism

Presenter: Ashley Talley

This seminar presents the model of scholar-activism utilized within African American Studies as a methodological compliment to multicultural social justice education. The work of W.E.B. DuBois, Carter G. Woodson, Mulana Karenga, Clenora Hudson-Weems and other educational theorists are synthesized to construct the “5 C’s” of social justice education.

Please note: Full-size copies of power point presentation will be available for each attendee.

Session 6: Community History and Culture

Presenter: Christine Karn

In “Community History and Culture,” we will examine the ways in which teachers can use writing as a cathartic experience for students as well as a space in which culture can be preserved. All students, regardless of race, religion, culture, gender, sexual orientation, or disability, have a story to tell. It is the intention of this workshop to encourage teachers to include more time in the classroom for students to share their unique experiences through the writing process. The workshop references the research of Christine Sleeter, touches on the work of the famed Freedom Writers’ teacher Erin Gruewell, and examines a writing project that was recently conducted in southeastern Louisiana with a diverse group of students.

Please note: Full-size copies of power point presentation will be available for each attendee.

Closing Session Day Two: Commitments to Multicultural Social Justice

Presenter: Ashley Talley

In this short closing session, we will collaboratively construct a list of commitments reflecting our personal and professional investment in Multicultural Social Justice Education.

Session 7: Tolerance in Your Classroom and School: Reducing Stereotyping and Bullying

Presenter: Alissa Hamilton

Stereotyping and bullying is a major problem in many schools across the country. How are we, as educators, supposed to stop this from happening? In this session we will address tolerance in your classroom. We will discuss further how to use Sleeter & Grant's human relations approach to reduce stereotyping and bullying in the classroom and school. We will also look at examples of activities and lessons that can be used in the classroom and discuss ways to research possible lessons and activities to use in your classroom.

Please note: Full-size copies of power point presentation will be available for each attendee.

Session 8: Putting Together the Pieces: How to Address Issues of Cultural Difference in the Classroom

Presenter: John Bonhom

This session is the wrap-up session for the workshop and focuses on next steps for teachers and administrators as they look to move their schools toward a more multicultural curriculum. This session hopes to help teachers better understand their role in addressing cultural difference in the classroom. We also aim to give teachers some of the tools necessary to go back to their school environment and work toward making sure that multicultural education is included in every aspect of the curriculum.