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Utah Chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education

Utah NAME News

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Enjoy our Newsletter!

Please visit our new website! www.utahname.org

REGISTER NOW!

Don't miss the

Utah NAME Conference 2008- "UNC8"

"Education through Relevancy, Relationships, and Rigor"

March 7th & 8th, 2008, Westminster College Campus - Visit www.utahname.org for more information.

Dr. Christine Sleeter to Keynote at 8th Annual Utah NAME Conference

Utah NAME Board of Directors

On March 7th and 8th, Westminster College in Salt Lake City will host the Utah chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education's 8th annual conference where educators from Utah and bordering states will gather to learn about and discuss issues related to diversity in education. This year, we are honored to welcome **Dr. Christine Sleeter**, Professor Emerita, California State University Monterey Bay as our Keynote Speaker! Dr. Sleeter's address is entitled: "Teaching for Relevance, Rigor, and Relationships in Diverse Classrooms."

Christine E. Sleeter is Professor Emerita in the College of Professional Studies at California State University, Monterey Bay. She was formerly a high school learning disabilities teacher in Seattle. She has been a faculty member at Ripon College in Wisconsin, at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, and at California State University Monterey Bay. Although she retired from CSU Monterey Bay to have more time to write, she continues to teach there, and remains professionally quite active. She lectures nationally and internationally. She currently serves as Vice President of Division K (Teaching and Teacher Education) of the American Educational Research Association. Her research focuses on anti-racist multicultural education and multicultural teacher education. Her journal articles appear in publications such as *Review of Research in Education*, *Journal of Teacher Education*, *Teacher Education Quarterly*, and *Social Justice*. Her most recent books include *Un-Standardizing Curriculum* (Teachers College Press); *Culture, Difference and Power* (Teachers College Press); *Multicultural Education as Social Activism* (SUNY Press); and *Turning on Learning* with Carl Grant (Wiley). Dr. Sleeter has received several awards for her work including the California State University Monterey Bay President's Medal, the National Association for Multicultural Education Research Award, and the AERA Committee on the Role and Status of Minorities in Education Distinguished Scholar Award.

This year's conference will address many topics that are of interest and of concern to educators including: special education and AYP, mandated service patterns for ELL students, immigrant students, undocumented students, English only and bilingual education, testing, standards-based assessment, the achievement gap, competency testing and more!

Online conference registration is available at: www.utahname.org.

Utah



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South

Open

CONSIDER JOINING OUR BOARD!

Elections for open Board Member positions will be held in April 2008. President-Elect and other positions will be open for nominations. Look for an email announcement coming soon! You can also make a nomination at the conference during our annual meeting. For more information, please contact Danell Mieure at dmieure@yahoo.com

NAME Membership Has Great Advantages!

Utah NAME members enjoy many advantages! Member benefits include: biannual Utah NAME newsletter, reduced state and national conference registration fee, a subscription to *Multicultural Perspectives* and **much more!** You can become a member online at www.nameorg.org or at www.utahname.org by clicking on the membership tab. Once you register as a national member, you are immediately enrolled as a chapter member of your home state.

The Beginning of a Legacy: The Utah College Advising Corps

Dr. Theresa Martinez, University of Utah

My philosophy of teaching was shaped by my mother. I was born into a large Mexican American, Chicana/o family and raised in a single-parent home in a poor section of Albuquerque, New Mexico. I was the youngest of twelve children, seven boys and five girls. My father was an abusive alcoholic who had been "kicked out" of the house by the time I was three years old. It was my mother who taught me the value of education. "Stay in school, *mis hijitos*," she would always say. I guess we listened because we certainly responded. As of this writing there are eleven undergraduate degrees, six masters degrees, and two doctoral degrees in my family. My mother also instilled in us the need to "help others" in whatever way we could. This upbringing left its stamp on me--in my love of learning, in my interest in school--it has had a profound effect on my philosophy of teaching. My mother was a wise woman in many ways, but her double emphasis on "staying in school" and "helping others" illustrates the remarkable depth of her wisdom and legacy. Education is the pathway to understanding between men and women, black and white, nation and nation. Education is the enemy of ignorance and its offspring: racism, hatred, sexism, classism, and homophobia, to name a few. From elementary school to graduate school, and even in the school of "hard knocks," education is necessary to and precedes growth. Education--the love of learning--is essential to change on any scale: community, national, or global.

Since the time I was a young professor, starting out here at the University of Utah in 1990, these were the lessons I brought with me into the classroom. These are also the lessons I bring now to my administrative work with the office of Academic Outreach. Our mission and vision is focused on creating access and awareness about higher education for those who are the most underserved students in our schools--first generation students, students of color, and students facing financial barriers. They remind me of me and mine, sometimes told by teachers and counselors that they are not "college material," sometimes unaware of how the process works. This is why the Utah College Advising Corps (UCAC) is such a tremendous gift to our state and our nation. This program, funded by a \$1 Million grant from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, is a statewide initiative--in partnership with other Utah System of Higher Education institutions--which allows recent college graduates to work full-time in area high schools to provide advising on key information about college admissions, test preparation, financial aid, and registration. College Access Advisors are focused primarily on underserved students but their door is open to all. Eight College Access Advisors with the Corps are working today in eight public high schools in the Salt Lake City area. The high schools we are targeting this year are Granite, Granger, Kearns, Taylorsville, Hunter, and Cottonwood in Granite School District, and East and West high schools in Salt Lake School District. The message of UCAC is simple, "you can get into college and you can graduate," in other words, college is accessible and attainable.

Without the message of UCAC, many students might not otherwise enroll in college and that is the primary goal of the program--we would like to increase college enrollment rates in the state of Utah, particularly among underserved students. I am excited to be working with all eight College Access Advisors as well as the Director of the program, Ms. Aretha Minor, who is a truly skilled and insightful leader. We are carrying out something that has resonance with the legacy of my mother and my family--a message of learning, of commitment, and of future promise.

Events

June 10th

Who: Asian Association of Utah

What: Asian Pacific Islander Festival. The festival is organized to educate the community-at-large about the diverse Asian and Pacific Islander culture, and to preserve the cultural heritage of the ethnic communities.

Where: South Town Exhibition Center, 9575 S. State St., Sandy, UT Time: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Contact: Asian Association of Utah, 801-467-6060, <http://www.aau-slc.org/>

June 12th-18th

Who: Project Success

What: 17th Anniversary Statewide Juneteenth Cultural Arts Festival, Celebrating Community. The 17th Anniversary Juneteenth Festival kicks off the summer season with -Performances -Ethnic cuisine - and Activities to keep you entertained
June 12 Movie night at the amphitheater 8:00p.m.
June 13 Slam dunk and 3 Pt. shoot out 6:00 p.m.
Marshall White Center
June 14 Talent in the park
June 15 Hip hop concert and rap battle 7:00 p.m.
June 16 scholarship banquet "Legacy of Freedom" OJAMS Grill 7:00 p.m. tickets \$25.00 call 394-0924
June 17 Festival 12, noon to 10:00 p.m. at the amphitheater, next in concert at Teazers 9:00 p.m.

June 18 Festival 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Gospel Music Festival

Contact: For cost or more information contact Betty Sawyer 801-394-0924

National Association for Multicultural Education

Definition of Multicultural Education

Numerous definitions of multicultural education have been proposed or espoused by scholars, researchers and organizations over the past 30 years. To assist researchers, teachers, educators, and parents in understanding and implementing multicultural education, the National Association for Multicultural Education defines multicultural education below.

Multicultural Education

Multicultural education is a philosophical concept built on the ideals of freedom, justice, equality, equity, and human dignity as acknowledged in various documents, such as the U.S. Declaration of Independence, constitutions of South Africa and the United States, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations. It affirms our need to prepare student for their responsibilities in an interdependent world. It recognizes the role schools can play in developing the attitudes and values necessary for a democratic society. It values cultural differences and affirms the pluralism that students, their communities, and teachers reflect. It challenges all forms of discrimination in schools and society through the promotion of democratic principles of social justice.

Multicultural education is a process that permeates all aspects of school practices, policies and organization as a means to ensure the highest levels of academic achievement for all students. It helps students develop a positive self-concept by providing knowledge about the histories, cultures, and contributions of diverse groups. It prepares all students to work actively toward structural equality in organizations and institutions by providing the knowledge, dispositions, and skills for the redistribution of power and income among diverse groups. Thus, school curriculum must directly address issues of racism, sexism, classism, linguisticism, ablism, ageism, heterosexism, religious intolerance, and xenophobia..

Multicultural education advocates the belief that students and their life histories and experiences should be placed at the center of the teaching and learning process and that pedagogy should occur in a context that is familiar to students and that addresses multiple ways of thinking. In addition, teachers and students must critically analyze oppression and power relations in their communities, society and the world.

To accomplish these goals, multicultural education demands a school staff that is culturally competent, and to the greatest extent possible racially, culturally, and linguistically diverse. Staff must be multiculturally literate and capable of including and embracing families and communities to create an environment that is supportive of multiple perspectives, experiences, and democracy. Multicultural education requires comprehensive school reform as multicultural education must pervade all aspects of the school community and organization.

Recognizing that equality and equity are not the same thing, multicultural education attempts to offer all students an equitable educational opportunity, while at the same time, encouraging students to critique society in the interest of social justice.

Adopted by the NAME Board of Directors on February 1, 2003.

**Utah Chapter of the National
Association for Multicultural
Education Mission Statement**

Utah NAME has been organized to operate exclusively for charitable, benevolent, scientific, literary, cultural, and educational purposes, including but not limited to: advancing a philosophy of inclusion that embraces the basic tenets of cultural pluralism; promoting cultural and ethnic diversity as a state-wide and national strength; fostering equity for all regardless of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, socioeconomic status, marital status, language, disability, or immigration status; promoting professional and social exchanges between people from all academic disciplines and diverse educational institutions and occupations who advocate for multicultural education; and representing and addressing the needs of the multicultural education community.

In addition, the mission of Utah-NAME chapter is to promote and support Education that is Multicultural as a means of achieving the full academic potential of every learner in Utah by 1) sharing knowledge and resources; 2) fostering an appreciation for diversity; and 3) advocating for educational equity.

For more information about NAME, please visit:

www.nameorg.org



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***Join us at the 8th Annual Utah NAME
Conference***

The Westminster College Campus, Salt Lake City, Utah
March 7-8, 2008

“Education through Relevancy, Relationships, and Rigor”

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Christine Sleeter

Come and hear Dr. Christine Sleeter, this year's keynote speaker, share her expertise related to multicultural education. Join educators from across Utah and bordering states to learn from knowledgeable presenters how to improve the educations of all students through relevancy, relationships, and rigor. This year's theme asks participants to consider how, as educators, we can make our curriculum and teaching relevant to the lives of our students; create relationships and networks to strengthen the educational experiences of diverse learners; and provide an academically rigorous education for all. The UNC (Utah NAME Conference) continues to draw upon experts in multicultural education to provide participants with research, practices, and resources to support your work in providing a more equitable educational experience for all students in schools.

Teachers who attend the conference can also obtain relicensure points from the Utah State Office of Education and Graduate Credit

For more information and to register please visit: www.utahname.org