

Cultural Relevance



USING RESEARCH TO IMPROVE LEARNING FOR CULTURALLY DIVERSE STUDENTS

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The Challenge

Achievement Gap

High Stakes Testing

Teaching & Leadership Skills

Maintaining Hope



Overview



THE DYNAMICS OF CULTURAL RELEVANCE
PEDAGOGY, CURRICULUM, AND ASSESSMENT
INCREASING CULTURAL COMPETENCY
BUILDING LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Theoretical Frames



- L. Vygotsky—Zone of Proximal Development
- G. Gay—Culturally Responsive Teaching
- P. Bourdieu—Social/Cultural Capital
- G. Ladson-Billings—Culturally Relevant Pedagogy

CULTURE



- Pattern of behaviors
- Thoughts and Speech
- Dynamic

- Learned
- Shared
- Meaningful

Cultural Relevance



**CULTURE IS CENTRAL TO STUDENT
LEARNING**

VALIDATES & EMPOWERS STUDENTS

**BRIDGES STUDENTS' CULTURE WITH
SCHOOL CULTURE**

Key Elements



- ❖ Culturally Responsive Teaching
- ❖ Culturally Relevant Curriculum
- ❖ Sustained Focus on Students
- ❖ Formative and Summative Assessments
- ❖ Teacher as Facilitator (ZPD)
- ❖ Recognizing Funds of Knowledge
- ❖ Linkages between Practice and Research
- ❖ High Expectations and Scaffolding
- ❖ Building Capacity

Urban Leadership Program



- Awareness
- Commitment
- Effectiveness
- Advocacy



Characteristics of Graduates



- Highly skilled practitioners
- Courageous change agents
- Understand systemic change
- Value urban communities
- Reflective thinkers
- Data based decision making
- Inclusive of all stakeholders
- Personal integrity and strong work ethic
- Match the demographics of their communities

Implications



If assessments keep looking to measure achievement without connecting testing to student knowledge, they will never find the key to successful teaching and learning.

It is reminiscent of a Sufi story that describes a man looking for a key under a lamp post, but not finding it.

When questioned where he lost the key, he pointed to another area of the street. Answering as to why he was not looking in that area, he explained that it was easier to look near the lamp.

We cannot look in the wrong places for the right strategies to address our challenges.