Press Release

The Central Jersey Consortium Holds Workshop on Racial Socialization, Identity, and School Success


The workshop focused on identifying and providing effective solutions to addressing some of the socially complex issues school staff often face in working with African-American and other non-majority students in predominantly majority schools. Facilitators used an experiential approach engaging members in exercises, in which they examined personal, professional, and systemic issues that tend to create barriers between students of color, their families, and the staff that are in place to support them.

The members started with a short survey to determine how they are in terms of racial socialization and identity. They examined where they received their messages on race and how it is internalized. They explored issues of white racial identity development which included a slide presentation, “Teaching for Racial Equity: Building Skills and Self-Knowledge”, and a handout on strategies for breaking down racial barriers.

Feedback from the workshop was positive, with members giving the workshop 4.06 (very relevant) out of 5 (extremely relevant). For the question: “What skills and/or knowledge did you acquire in this learning experience?,” most members put effective communication at the top of their list in terms of being willing to have a conversation about racism with students and staff.

For more information on the Central Jersey Consortium for Excellence and Equity contact: School of Education, Dean's Office, CJCEE6@monmouth.edu or (732) 571-7518.

Press Release  WEST LONG BRANCH, November 27, 2012

The Central Jersey Consortium for Excellence and Equity Provides Training for Working with Diverse Families

West Long Branch, November 27, 2012: The Central Jersey Consortium for Excellence and Equity, (CJCEE), a collaboration between the Monmouth University School of Education and the Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania held their second workshop on Tuesday, November 27, 2012 at Monmouth University’s Magill Commons. The participants were welcomed by School of Education Dean Lynn Romeo and Dr. Robert Jarvis from the University of Pennsylvania. Family Engagement Consultant and Parent Leadership Facilitator Andrea Lawful Trainer presented the Family-Community Partnership Workshop, “Can We Talk? Working with Your Diverse Families without Trepidation”.

Andrea Lawful Trainer has made parent advocacy her career. As an African American mother of three boys, she learned from her experiences in a Pennsylvania community what was necessary to help her sons succeed: building strong, productive relationships with schools that went beyond single trivial issues and that helped all children. Her proven record of success includes witnessing the reduction in an achievement gap in reading from thirty-three to eight percent that was the direct result of a six-month workshop that she held at a suburban Philadelphia school district which was designed to provide leadership empowerment to students, leadership development for parents, and professional development for teacher/guidance advisors.
Mrs. Trainer led the workshop participants representing ten of the fifteen member districts through exercises designed to assess where they and their districts were personally and as institutions. Participants also strategized how to build effective parent-school partnerships, particularly with diverse families. Participants included Superintendents, Principals, Board of Education members, Directors, School Counselors, a Substance Awareness Coordinator (SAC), and Child Study Team Members.

“Educator teams came away with practical ways to help minority students -- whether of color, gender, or sexual orientation -- to excel in the school systems and to begin restructuring their schools to have a truly open door,” said Matawan Aberdeen District Superintendent, Dr. Marc Natanagara.

Mrs. Trainer currently serves as Chair of SE PA CARES Coalition; Affiliate to National CARES Mentoring Movement; Minority Delegate to PSBA National School Board Association; Chairperson Montgomery County Advisory Council to PA Human Relations Commission; Faculty & Student Facilitator Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium at U PENN; Educational Consultant to School Districts in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware where she provides Leadership Coaching for Students, Parent Advocacy Training, and Diversity Training for Staff; Faculty at the Coach Center for Progressive Leadership, a nonprofit organization; and is the Founder and President of the CALM Society (Committed Advocates Leading Many); Director of the Abington School Board; and a board member of the Abington YMCA.

“The Family-Community Partnership Workshop fostered rich discussion among educators from many districts throughout New Jersey and challenged them to facilitate ongoing dialogue with their district stakeholders to break down barriers and question existing paradigms of stereotypical practices” said Middletown Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Jill Takacs. “It was refreshing to converse with so many forward thinking educational leaders throughout our state.”

“The largest benefit of this workshop is the insight gained about interacting with parents” said Hazlet Public School Counselor, Ms. Katie Horsley. “The value of the session is truly priceless.

The next CJCEE event is a Diverse learner and Culture workshop entitled, “So you’re __, and I’m Not… How Can I Still Support You? Racial Socialization, Identity, and School Success”, scheduled for Thursday, December 13, 2012 8:30am -3pm in Monmouth University’s Magill Commons Club Rooms 107/108/109. For more information contact: School of Education, Dean’s Office, CJCEE@monmouth.edu (732) 571-7518.

Press Release  WEST LONG BRANCH, November 20, 2012

The Central Jersey Consortium for Excellence and Equity (CJCEE), a collaboration of Monmouth University School of Education and University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, held their first workshop, “District Leadership for Excellence and Equity: Organizing for Success” on Tuesday, November 20, 2012 in the Multipurpose Activity Center (MAC) Varsity Room. CJCEE Director Dr. Robert Jarvis facilitated the workshop. Jarvis also serves as Director of the Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium (DVMSAC), Director of the Long Island Consortium for Excellence and Equity (NYCEE), Co-Director of the New Jersey Network to Close the Achievement Gaps (NJNCAG), and Director of K-12 Outreach for the Penn Center for Educational Leadership in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania.

The workshop centered on: addressing organizational and educational challenges to making a positive impact on achievement gaps defined by race, class, and gender; examining the critical role of district and school leadership and key questions they need to be addressing with their stakeholder groups; reviewing critical data that districts need to disaggregate to define achievement gaps, and to promote and support change; sharing strategies for organization and self-reflection in response to struggling or underperforming learners; offering frameworks and perspectives for district organizing for excellence and equity; and sharing strategies for maximizing benefit from membership and engagement with CJCEE.
The CJCEE was formed in October 2012 by Dr. Lynn Romeo, Dean of the School of Education, and Dr. James Stefankiewicz, Superintendent of Red Bank Regional High School District in collaboration with Dr. Jarvis to provide an evolving, collaborative forum for administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, and elementary and K–12 students who are collectively committed to learning and working together to enhance the achievement and well-being of all students, as well as increase the academic performance, engagement, and future success of traditionally underachieving students. One of their goals is to create an important venue for collective thinking about policy, research, and practice - thinking and taking action that enhances all students’ academic achievement, providing access to post-secondary educational opportunities, and addressing equity and success. The consortium’s main focus is on inter-district collaboration and shared learning for continuous improvement in eliminating the disparities in achievement and school engagement.


The Administrators and Board of Education members from the ten districts that attended the session said they found the content extremely relevant, the resources valuable, and the collaboration very beneficial.

The next CJCEE event is the Family Community Partnership Workshop, “Can We Talk? Working with Your Diverse Families without Trepidation” on Tuesday, November 27, 2012 at Monmouth University in Magill Commons Club Rooms 107/108/109. For more information contact: School of Education, Dean’s Office, CJCEE@monmouth.edu (732) 571-7518.

Calendar of Future Central Jersey Consortium for Excellence and Equity Events

**Tuesday, November 27, 2012 8:30am-3pm**
FAMILY-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOP
“CAN WE TALK? WORKING WITH YOUR DIVERSE FAMILIES WITHOUT TREPIDATION”
Monmouth University: Magill Commons Club Rooms 107/108/109

**Thursday, December 13, 2012 8:30am-3pm**
DIVERSE LEARNER AND CULTURE WORKSHOP
“SO YOU’RE __, AND I’M NOT… HOW CAN I STILL SUPPORT YOU?
RACIAL SOCIALIZATION, IDENTITY, AND SCHOOL SUCCESS”
Monmouth University: Magill Commons Club Rooms 107/108/109

**Tuesday, January 29, 2013**
SUPERINTENDENTS’ PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY
“EFFECTIVELY ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF LEADING AN EQUITY-FOCUSED SCHOOL DISTRICT”
Monmouth University: Magill Commons Club Rooms 107/108/109

**Thursday, February 7, 2013**
DIVERSE LEARNER SUPPORT WORKSHOP
“ENHANCING A COLLEGE-GOING SCHOOL CULTURE THAT SUPPORTS HIGH EXPECTATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS”
Red Bank Regional High School

**Monday, February 25, 2013**
DIVERSE LEARNER INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES WORKSHOP
“OPENING THE COMMON CORE: BRINGING ALL STUDENTS TO COLLEGE CAREER READINESS”
Monmouth University: Magill Commons Club Rooms 107/108/109

more
Press Release  WEST LONG BRANCH, October 28, 2012

Monmouth University School of Education Dean Lynn Romeo announced the formation of the Central Jersey Consortium for Excellence and Equity that will focus on achievement for all P-12 students. The consortium is a partnership between the School of Education and the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education. Dean Romeo and Dr. Robert L. Jarvis, from the University of Pennsylvania who is also the director the Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium, will lead the consortium.

The Central Jersey Consortium for Excellence and Equity (CJCEE) is a new and evolving collaboration of administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, and elementary and secondary students that will collectively be committed to learning and working together to enhance the achievement and well-being of all students, as well as increasing the academic performance, engagement, and future success of traditionally underachieving students.

To date, the following School Districts have become committed members: Asbury Park Public School District, Bloomfield Public Schools, Eatontown Public Schools, Hazlet Township Public Schools, Holmdel Township School District, Jackson Township School District, Keansburg Public Schools, Keyport School District, Long Branch Public Schools, Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District, Middletown Township Public Schools, Red Bank Charter School, Red Bank Regional School District, and Union Beach School District.

The Consortium will also create an important venue for collective thinking about policy, research and practice - thinking and taking action that enhances all students’ academic achievement, provides access to post-secondary educational opportunities, and addresses equity and success. It focuses on inter-district collaboration and shared learning for continuous improvement in eliminating the disparities in achievement and school engagement.

“We are hopeful that other districts will join CJCEE and become a part of this exciting opportunity to collaborate for the purpose of addressing and improving student learning” said Romeo.

For more information contact Dr. Lynn Romeo at cjee@monmouth.edu or 732-571-7518.