

Workshop Description

CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Culturally Relevant Teaching for African American Students

Eliminate the achievement gap by becoming familiarized with the cultural learning patterns of your students. Create a more engaging curriculum by infusing culturally relevant lessons into the content. Become familiarized with resources and materials relevant to your students' lives. Employ the Five Tiers to Success framework for empowering and propelling your students toward academic success.

Reaching and Reteaching the African-American Male

"It's cool to be smart" is the resounding theme throughout this workshop. Participants will become familiarized with cultural learning patterns unique to most African Americans to enhance their literacy instruction. The modeling of culturally relevant lessons presented with resources and materials relevant to the students' lives will enable participants to engage their students more effectively. An infusion of the students' history and culture into the curriculum will propel them to emulate successful people who share their cultural heritage and strive for academic success.

"Empowering The African-American Female"

The goal of this workshop is to identify approaches and strategies for empowering African-American females with skills to succeed academically and socially. It will focus on building self esteem, self respect, social skills and proper etiquette. It is also designed to provide strategies for decision-making and coping with peer pressure. The premise is that issues outside of the classroom greatly influence academic achievement.

Once a Man Twice a Child: Prey or Predator

A lack of understanding of the environmental influences which shape the thinking and behavior of African-American male children and the absence of strategies to counter these influences have widened the achievement gap. Learn how cultural norms impact their self-esteem and academic performance. Discover resources and strategies that will promote positive life outcomes for these young males by creating a positive, respectful, safe, and supportive environment that fosters academic and social excellence.

A Culturally Relevant Pedagogy for African-American Males

Research indicates that most African-American students are relational learners. Their academic performance is closely related to relationships with their teachers and their expectations of them. The goal of this practicum is to provide a series of forums that will explore the perceptions, facts, and challenges that impede the educational and social development of young African-American males in contemporary schooling. Emphasis will be placed on identifying cultural learning patterns and incorporating them into current teaching practices. Holistic strategies for creating a culturally relevant pedagogy will be detailed in an effort to eliminate the achievement gap and advance the life outcomes for young African-American males.