

Academic Achievement in Africa and Its Diaspora: Challenges and Solutions

Dubois-Nkrumah-Dunham International Conference

May 1-2, 2009

Department of Africana Studies
University of Pittsburgh

Jerome Taylor, PhD, Conference Convener
Oronde Sharif, MSW, Conference Co-Convener

1. What Academic Challenges Do We Face? [May 1, 9:00 a.m. to Noon]

Featured Speaker

Lloyd Bond (Senior Carnegie Scholar at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching). *African American Students and Standardized Testing: Causes and Cures for "Not Testing Well"*.

Juried Presentations

Jerome Taylor & Jahmaiah Lewis (Department of Africana Studies, University of Pittsburgh). *Problems with Conventional Reporting of Racial Achievement Gaps: The Case for National, State, and Local Shifts in Assessment and Evaluation Policies*.

Matthew Hawkins (School of Education, University of Pittsburgh). *Historical Perspectives on Oppositional Culture and its Alternatives*.

Nosakhare Griffin-El (School of Education, University of Pittsburgh). *Schooling as Oppression*.

Nicole M. Russell (College of Education, University of Washington). *The Mathematics Education of African Americans at Garfield High School, 1960-1970*.

2. How do we Account for Identified Challenges? [May 1, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.]

Featured Speaker

Gloria J. Ladson-Billings (Kellner Family Professor in Urban Education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, University of Wisconsin-Madison). *Pushing Past the Achievement Gap*.

Juried Presentations

Kevin Cokley, Collette Chapman, Brettjet Cody, Bianca Jones, Shannon McClain, & Andrea Bullock (Department of Educational Psychology, University of Texas at Austin). *A Review of Psychosocial Factors That Impact Black Student Achievement: How Do We Account for Identified Challenges?*

Linda M. Clautti (CEO, Pittsburgh's Northside Urban Pathways Charter School). *Using the Activity Vector Analysis to Determine Teacher Dispositions for Charter School Teachers in Urban Settings*.

Martens Roc & Michael Quigley (School of Education, University of Pittsburgh). *Failure to Recognize High Risk High Achieving Schools*.

Jerome Taylor & Jahmaiah Lewis (Department of Africana Studies, University of Pittsburgh). *Unfinished Business: Failure to Recognize Residual Effects of Chattel Slavery.*

3. What Policy Reforms Offer Promise of Overcoming Identified Challenges? [May 2, 9:00 a.m. to noon]

Featured Speaker

George J. Sefa Dei (Professor in the Department of Sociology and Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto). *Educational Policies and the Search for Academic Excellence for Black/African Learners: Towards a New Policy Framework.*

Juried Presentations

Kakenya Ntaiya (School of Education, University of Pittsburgh). *Kenya Primary Education: Challenges of Providing Free and Quality Education.*

Annamore Matambanadzo & Collete Ncube (Department of Family Medicine, University of Pittsburgh). *Academic Achievement in Zimbabwe.*

Zimife Umeh, John McKay, & Abi Fapohunda (Department of Africana Studies, University of Pittsburgh). *Going Down Memory Lane: Students in the Diaspora Give Accounts of Educational Achievement Barriers and Challenges.*

Monica D. Lamar (Principal, Pittsburgh's Dilworth Elementary Academy). *A Case Study: Do School Policies Affirming Critical Race Theory or Accelerative Principles Theory Contribute More to Gap-Closure?*

4. Which Practice Reforms Offer Promise of Overcoming Identified Challenges? [May 2, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.]

Featured Speaker

Brenda J. DeMar-Williams (Principal, Amelia Earhart Elementary School). *Intelligence, Creativity, and Ingenuity: Excellence through Academics Rewarded by High Achievement and improvement through Reflective Teaching*

Juried Presentations

Sardana Nikolaeva (School of Education, University of Pittsburgh). *African Philosophy and Education: Theoretical Review.*

Michelle Zuckerman-Parker, James Schreiber, & J. Christopher Post (Allegheny-Singer Research Institute and Duquesne University). *Overcoming Academic Challenges of the Allegheny Women's Biotechnology Workforce.*

Abi Fapohunda, Ashley Funk & Zimife Umeh (Department of Africana Studies, University of Pittsburgh). *Responding to Oppositional and Defiant Behaviors in School: A Strategy for Empowering Community Engagement.*

Épryl King (President of RAMP: Raising Achievement in Monroeville and Pitcairn). *A Community Collaborative Associated with Accelerated Closure of Racial Achievement Gaps.*

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