

From the Research Desk

Ten multicultural education and equity websites for teachers

Educators can easily find a wealth of information addressing issues of equity, diversity and multicultural education on the internet. I have chosen ten that have been particularly useful to me in the hope that you may find them useful as well. ~ Dave Lehman, Connections Executive Editor

This fall, struggles continue in Ferguson, Missouri in the aftermath of the killing of a young Black man. The first two resources below created background materials for people seeking understanding of the history involved.



1) Teaching for Change www.teachingforchange.org

For a perspective on the Ferguson situation, simply enter "Teaching about Ferguson" in the search box. On their home page you will notice that their slogan is "building social justice starting in the classroom."

Click through the photos at the top of the page to find a multitude of free resources, including materials about Central America and the current issue of immigration. For example - "Put Central America on the Map in Schools," lessons and poetry for k-12 on Central American history and culture. You will also notice they have a quarterly journal, "Teaching for Change" as well as connections to the Zinn Education Project.



2) Zinn Education Project www.zinnedproject.org

Near the top of their home page you will note the availability of "teaching materials" in two categories: "explore by time period," and "explore by theme." Clicking on "teaching materials" in the banner heading, you will see a third category, "explore by resource type."

Here you will find lists of articles, fiction books, non-fiction books, picture books, audios, films, posters, songs and poems and Spanish/bilingual resources as well as teacher guides and a reference to related websites. Clicking on the heading "If We Knew Our History," you will find a

series of insightful articles providing much needed different perspectives on various current and past issues of equity and justice. The article, "Is This America?: 50 Years Ago Sharecroppers Challenged Mississippi, Apartheid, LBJ, and the Nation" is a particularly important read in the context of the Ferguson situation.

3) Rethinking Schools www.rethinkingschools.org

Like the Teaching for Change website, Rethinking Schools also cross references the



Zinn Project and Teaching for Change. Rethinking Schools publishes a quarterly journal by the same title, about which Jonathan Kozol says: "Absolutely the best, most important education publication in the country... a gutsy, dynamic magazine that I have been reading now for 20 years." They have a number of books which are collections of articles from past issues, e.g. "Rethinking Popular Culture and Media," "A People's History for the Classroom" (in conjunction with the Zinn Project), "Teaching for Joy and Justice," "Rethinking Early Childhood Education," "Rethinking Multicultural Education," and "The New Teacher Book."

4) EdChange: Professional Development, Research, and Resources for Diversity, Multiculturalism and Cultural Competence www.edchange.org

EdChange is primarily the work of Paul C. Gorski, Assistant Professor of Integrative Studies at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. EdChange's mission, "Building equitable and just schools, communities, and organizations through transformative action" sounds a lot like NSRF. Under the Projects tab, look for "Multicultural Pavilion," and sign up for the weekly newsletter, "Justice: The People's News."



Gorski is the author of *Reaching and Teaching Students in Poverty*, (which I reviewed in the November 2013 issue of *Connections*), and several other books.

Also on the EdChange home page, on the banner heading, click on "Hand-Outs" for a number of excellent, free papers, including "20 Things I Can Do to Be a Better Multi-

cultural Educator,” “Eleven Things You Can Do to Bring Class Equity to Your Classroom,” and “Five Shifts of Consciousness for Multicultural Educators.” They also offer workshops and a unique approach to assessment.



5) Teaching Diverse Students Initiative (TDSi) www.tolerance.org Founded in 1991 by the Southern Poverty Law Center, Teaching Tolerance is dedicated to “reducing prejudice, improving intergroup relations, and supporting equitable school experiences for our nation’s children.” The organization provides free educational materials to educators in the U.S. and Canada. Their self-titled magazine is sent to 450,000 educators twice annually, and “tens of thousands of educators use our free curricular kits.”

Subscribe to their free online weekly newsletter and their journal, *Teaching Tolerance*, published twice a year. Click on classroom resources, film kits, or publications on the banner of their home page for their resources and a reference to a brochure describing all they offer.

6) What Kids Can Do www.whatkidscando.org This website, subtitled “Voices from the next generation,” offers a number of resources including books they publish, short videos, and stories about what youth have done and are doing to address various educational and socio-political issues.



You can subscribe to their “News Blast,” and download valuable information for first generation young people, and their parent/caregivers, about applying to colleges. Their books (see my article entitled “*In Search of Good Things People Worldwide Have Done, Are Doing, and Can Do*” in the Spring 2011 issue of *Connections*) are primarily based on extensive interviews with students giving their ideas about how to improve schools to better serve diverse student needs.

7) 2011 C.A.R.E. Guide: Strategies for Closing the Achievement Gaps, 4th edition www.nea.org/assets/docs/CAREguide2011.pdf According to the website, “Recently, more than 350 users of this C.A.R.E. strategy guide were surveyed and eight out of 10 reported changing their teaching practices and found its contents useful in closing achievement gaps. Two-thirds of these educators also saw an increase in students’ motivation and interest in their studies. And seven of 10 say their relationships with students and their family members improved.”

CULTURE
ABILITIES
RESILIENCE
EFFORT

STRATEGIES FOR CLOSING
THE ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

CARE stands for “Culture, Abilities, Resilience, and Effort,” and this 174-page free download Guide is organized into five categories: 1) Enduring Understandings, 2) Student Activities, 3) Reflections, 4) Resources, and 5) Video Clips (done in conjunction with Teaching Diverse Students Initiative). Other NEA resources can be found by going to nea.org/tools.

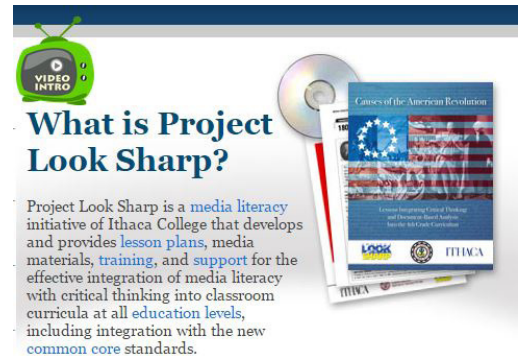
8) The National Equity Project www.nationalequity-project.org Formerly BayCES, operating out of Oakland, California, their home page provides a thorough overview of their “approach, impact, partners, and events.” Having participated in one of their introductory workshops I recommend their training most highly. Within the banner of their home page click on “Resources,” then “News and Publications” for various articles and interviews describing their work and the results in improving multicultural relationships and teaching strategies. There also is a listing of upcoming conferences and presentations.



**NATIONAL
EQUITY
PROJECT**

9) Project Look Sharp www.projectlooksharp.org Project Look Sharp is a media literacy initiative of Ithaca College that develops and provides lesson plans, media materials, training, and support for the effective integration of media literacy with critical thinking into classroom curricula at all education levels, including integration with the new common core standards. They offer webinars, a summer institute, workshops, keynotes and consulting, articles and publications, a Teacher’s Guide to Media Literacy, other resources and organizations as well as a number of free media literacy handouts.

Having worked with the staff of Project Look Sharp over the years (one of the social studies teachers from our school in Ithaca is a part-time member of their staff), I can vouch for the excellent materials and training they provide. Free to download curriculum kits cover six areas: U.S. History, Global Studies, Science and Environment, Health, Psychology and Aging Studies, and General Media Literacy. You can use their “Lesson Plan Index for Kit Documents” and choose specific material by content, grade level, and media type - e.g. a kit about “Stereotyping Arabs and Muslims” or use the whole kit on the “Middle East.”



10) International Journal of Multicultural Education www.ijme-journal.org The International Journal



of Multicultural Education (IJME) is a peer-reviewed, open-access journal for scholars, practitioners, and students of multicultural education. The journal is committed to promoting educational equity for all, cross-cultural understanding, and global awareness in all levels of education including leadership and policies.

This journal offers articles, book reviews, art and media reviews. For example, the media review in the current issue is of the film “Bully,” a book review is of *Finding Joy in Teaching Students of Diverse Backgrounds: Culturally Responsive and Socially Just Practices in U.S. Classrooms*, and one of the scholarly articles is “Fostering Awareness through Trans-mediation: Preparing Pre-Service Teachers for Critical Engagement with Multicultural Literature.” This journal is relatively new, having just begun publishing in 2007. They publish three issues each year and their articles can be downloaded for free.

These are the ten websites I recommend as resources for multicultural education addressing issues of equity and diversity, race and racism, gender and learning disabilities discrimination. We would be interested in any additional sites you believe educators at any level would find useful. 🍃

Dave Lehman is the former founding principal/teacher of the Lehman Alternative Community School in Ithaca, NY. This public middle-high school was



named for Dave and his wife Judy by the Ithaca, New York Board of Education upon their retirement after 30 years. Dave was a member of the very first

“Principals Seminar” leadership group at the beginning of the NSRF, under the umbrella for the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University. Soon thereafter he was trained as a CFG coach and then an NSRF National Facilitator. His email is davelehman@mac.com

NSRF WILL BE EXHIBITING AT THE NAIS PEOPLE OF COLOR CONFERENCE IN INDIANAPOLIS, DECEMBER 4-6



Find us at Table 10 in the Exhibit Hall. Friday morning at 9:35 a.m., hear Michele speak on “The Secret to Great Facilitation” in the Exhibit Hall presentations.

If you’ve been trained as a CFG Coach, stop by early for a free gift, and anyone can enter our drawing for great prizes – including a \$795-value seat in an upcoming Open Training for New CFG Coaches! You may even see a glimpse of our upcoming New Coaches Manual, due to be printed later this winter!

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Critical Friends Group® New Coaches Open Training begins Feb. 9-11

Bloomington, IN, \$795 for five days’ training*

*(*On Feb. 11, the group decides when to return for the last two days.)*



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“Best PD EVER!”

~ A new coach in North Carolina

“This training introduced me to a supportive group

of colleagues. I did not have this before this training.” ~ A new coach in Toronto

“I learned that the protocols are really useful in bringing out our ‘best selves.’ They drew me into the activities in a way that nudged me towards being fully present. I developed a greater awareness of the effect of my behavior and how it might benefit or hurt the rest of the participants.” ~ A new coach in Michigan

To enroll or learn more, click through to the NSRF website or call 812-330-2702!