

Another Successful CREATE Conference!

Contributed by Rebecca Collins, CESA #9
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Every Wisconsin student has the ability to learn, yet we struggle to effectively educate all students. Too often, race is a predictor of success in Wisconsin schools. We are working to change that! The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin school districts and Cooperative Educational Service Agencies are teaming up to identify, promote and implement new practices.

Wisconsin's Annual CREATE Conference was held April 26-28, 2011 at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center in Green Bay, WI to assist Wisconsin in transforming its schools to unlock the potential of all students. Nearly 70 educators participated in a powerful two day pre-conference event, "Beyond Diversity," facilitated by Glenn Singleton. Additionally, over 150 educators gathered for a one day "Needs Assessment" pre-conference workshop to determine district needs and goals for their continued work in addressing disproportionality in their schools.

Based on evaluations provided by over 200 CREATE Conference attendees, the conference was again successful in offering a day of informative, thought-provoking, and engaging topics around which to frame the design and delivery of culturally responsive education to all children. Dr. Geneva Gay and Dr. Jeanette Haynes Writer delivered keynote and sectional presentations. Sectional presentations were offered by Nell Anderson (Wausau School District), Vaunce Ashby (WDPI), Adrienne Duke (UW-Madison), Andy Gokee (UW-SP), Greg Hartjes (Appleton School District), Amy Hilgendorf (UW-Madison), Dr. Bob Kann, JP Leary (WDPI), Dr. Jeffrey Lewis (UW-Madison), Eileen Littig (NEWIST/CESA 7), Clif Morton (WSHRA), Dr. Markeda Newell (UW-Milwaukee), and Dr. Hazel Symonette (UW-Madison). Planning is underway for the 2012 CREATE Conference. Stay tuned for more details!

The following individuals are recognized for the contribution to the successful planning of the conference: Juliet Cole (Conference Co-Coordinator), Ron Dunlap (CREATE Coordinator), Erin Bonnin (CREATE Assistant Coordinator), Dr. Donna Hart-Tervalon (WDPI), Courtney Reed Jenkins (WDPI), Mary Kampa (CREATE Needs Assessment Coordinator), Clif Morton (WSHRA), and Don Rosin (Native American Center Coordinator, WI FACETS). Further, a special acknowledgement goes to the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center for their tireless efforts in efficiently and effectively meeting all of the conference planning and delivery needs!