

October Newsletter

CREATE B-Consortium on Racial Equity in PK-12 Education in Wisconsin

CREATE Wisconsin has begun year 3 of this state initiative that originally started in November 2008 with eight districts and nineteen local coaches. Two of the eight districts chose not to participate in the Consortium. We are starting with the same six districts (Fond du Lac, Kenosha, Waukesha, Beloit, Janesville, and Eau Claire) who were part of the original participants. Last spring each district was given the opportunity to select one local coach to work with them for year 3 and four districts decided to continue their relationships while two districts made a decision to move forward without a local coach. David Davidson will continue in the role of lead coach and recently joined the staff of the Pacific Educational Group whose CEO is Glenn Singleton. Local coaches were not to be team members of the District Equity Leadership Teams, but serve to push their districts toward making the hard decisions in the areas of equity, anti-racist learning and teaching and community empowerment. In year 2 CREATE Wisconsin completed the year with fourteen coaches. I had the privilege of conversing with ten of them who experienced a personal transformation from their work in CREATE and expressed how it would impact their CESA (Cooperative Educational Service Agency) responsibilities.

There will be two one-day seminars held in October and March for the remaining local coaches, district equity leadership teams and state equity leadership team (DPI) facilitated by Mr. Davidson and Mr. Singleton. The emphasis will be on equity action plan implementation through the sharing of team progress and critical race theory.

We had a little over 80 participants enrolled in Beyond Diversity for two-days in August led by Courtland Butts and Devon Alexander. DPI, Fond du Lac, Ashland and Wisconsin Lutheran College were all well represented. A Beyond Diversity seminar will take place during the pre-conference on April 26-27, 2011 prior to the CREATE Conference and instructed by Mr. Singleton.

CREATE Wisconsin is extremely impressed with the work being done by these districts in meeting the needs of all children, especially students of color. They are exploring the hiring and retention of certified teachers of color, increasing the graduation rate, lowering the dropout, lowering the suspension/expulsion rates and improving the development of relationships.

As in other components of CREATE Wisconsin, the journey is a long one requiring patience and a commitment to all children.

Ronald C. Dunlap
CREATE Coordinator