

Fourth Annual CREATE Conference

Contributed by Juliet Cole

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The Fourth Annual CREATE Conference is scheduled for Tuesday-Thursday, April 24--26, 2012 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Green Bay, Wis. The conference theme is "Culturally Responsive Education: Unlocking the Potential of ALL Students".

The conference will open with a two-day pre-conference on April 24 and 25, with "Beyond Diversity II. This workshop, facilitated by Glenn Singleton and Maureen Benson, will engage educators in a deeper understanding and personal progression in racial identity development and converting courageous conversations into courageous leadership.

Also, on April 25, districts newly identified with disproportionate representations of students in Special Education classes will attend a required Needs Assessment workshop, though other districts may elect to attend. The workshop is designed to provide districts the support and technical assistance they need.

The conference on April 26 is open to all educators, including pre-service teachers and other professionals. The conference will offer two keynote presentations and a number of breakout sessions by presenters from the region. The breakout sessions will include presentations by districts in the region that are doing outstanding work in culturally responsive practices and closing the academic achievement gap.

The keynote and breakout sessions are designed to provide districts and all participants with practical strategies for culturally responsive educational practices for improving students' learning and academic achievement.

Dr. Gary Howard and Dr. Anton Treuer, who are both nationally renowned experts, will lead separate keynote discussions on culturally responsive practices and also present corresponding sectionals as a follow-up to their respective keynotes.

Dr. Gary Howard's keynote topic is: **"Education for Social Justice: Renewing Our Equity Vision" and Dr. Anton Treuer's topic is, Best Practices for Bridging the Achievement Gap with Native American Students"**.

Blocks of rooms have been reserved for conference attendees at state rate, at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, 2040 Airport Drive, Green Bay, WI. When making hotel reservations, please indicate that you are attending the CREATE Conference and mention the room block.

Registration: Online registration will begin the week of January 23 at:

<http://www.createwisconsin.net>.

For more information about the conference, contact Becky Collins at (715) 453-2141; e-mail: bcollins@cesa9.k12.wi.us or Juliet Cole at (920) 360-5536; e-mail: julietcole@new.rr.com