

### Hispanic Month

History, resources and things for your classroom and parental involvement. Begin on [page 2](#) through page 4

### I Do Not Like them Sam-I-Am

50th Anniversary, \$50 bet, 50 words, find out the results on [page 7](#)



September 2010

[Nebraska Department of Education](#)

Office of Multicultural/Native  
American Education

[www.education.ne.gov/mce](http://www.education.ne.gov/mce)

America is the great melting pot. The words of Emma Lazarus's "The New Colossus" on the tablet of the Statue of Liberty reflect this thought. Lady Liberty says "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

But should we really be a melting pot? Think about what happens when we melt everything together? It all becomes the same. What if what it all becomes is not the best of what it could be?

Rather than a melting pot I propose the idea of America being a tossed salad. Let's start with some salad greens, whatever kind you prefer is okay with me. I like to create a bed of several different kinds. Then we can add tomatoes, green peppers, cucumbers, onions, ham or bacon bits, hard boiled eggs, croutons, and I personally like ranch dressing with a little bit of Dorothy Lynch on the top. Sounds delicious! You don't like all these ingredients? Well that's okay. Switch a few things out. Add a few things in. The whole point of a tossed salad is that when all put together it creates a wonderful blend of tastes while each ingredient still maintains its own individuality. Everything works

## Why do we need to celebrate *Hispanic Heritage Month*

Carol Rempff

together for the betterment of the whole. The key to making it work is taking time to understand what each ingredient can bring to the whole.

Using this analogy explains why we celebrate not only Hispanic Heritage Month but also Native American Heritage Month, Black History Month, Women's History Month, Martin Luther King Day and the Civil Rights Movement. This country was built not only by the immigrants of Europe who began coming here in the 1500's and again sacrificed everything from the 1800's thru the early 1900's, but also by the American Indians who first lived here, the slaves from Africa who came here by force, the Chinese immigrants who came to build our railroads for western expansion, and the women and children of all ethnic groups who lived and died to support the building of this country. This country was also built on the backs of the migrant farm workers and ranchers from Mexico and Central America who create a unique dynamic of people. We often forget that many of these people are a mixed heritage of indigenous tribes that were here before Columbus and the Spanish conquistadors who overtook their homelands.

If we demand that everyone assimilate to the perceived best lifestyle of America we lose so much that makes us the great nation that we are. I am an Irish Catholic Lakota Woman. I am proud of the history of my family that I inherited from both of my parents. I do not want to lose that because I have to melt it all into what someone else tells me I am supposed to be to be an American and I do not want the children I can influence to feel that pressure either. This is why I encourage every teacher to embrace the ideas of celebrating these commemorative months throughout the school year. If we truly understand how our diversity makes us stronger we are able to celebrate being a tossed salad. We are able to celebrate being Americans.

Website reference: National Park Service website for the Statue of Liberty-- <http://www.nps.gov/stli/>

### Need field trip money???

We have the solution to possibly connect you with funds to make that educational field trip.. [See page 5.](#)



### Symposium [See page 10.](#)

Grants [See page 5](#)

National Diversity Day Oct 1

Freedom from Bullies: Oct 18-24

We Shall Remain [See page 7](#)

Plan Ahead for October [See page 9](#)



Research to Action Forum

November 9-10, 2010  
Kearney NE  
Kearney Holiday Inn

[See page 8.](#)



**“Not just seeing black and white or Hispanic or Latino. But, seeing you're just like me and it's ok.”**  
**Arthur Sheriff**

[Courtesy of the Library of Congress.](#)

National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates and recognizes the contributions Hispanic Americans have made to American society and culture and to honor five of our Central American neighbors who celebrate their Independence days in September.

National Hispanic Heritage Month had its origins in 1968 when Congress passed [Pub. L. 90-498](#) (PDF, 153 KB) which authorized and requested the President to issue an annual proclamation designating the week including September 15 and 16 as National Hispanic Heritage Week. By directing that this week should include September 15 and 16, this law celebrated Hispanic Americans and the anniversaries of independence for the Latin American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua as well as Mexico's independence on September 16. President Lyndon Johnson issued the first proclamation, Presidential Proclamation 3869, in September 1968 which stated in part:

*Wishing to pay special tribute to the Hispanic tradition, and having in mind the fact that our five Central American neighbors celebrate their Independence Day on the fifteenth of September and the Republic of Mexico on the sixteenth, the Congress by House Joint Resolution 1299, has requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating the week including September 15 and 16 as National Hispanic Heritage Week.*

Between 1969 and 1988 Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan issued a series of annual proclamations which designated a



**BEGINS SEPTEMBER 15**

week in September which included September 15 and 16 as National Hispanic Heritage Week. These proclamations celebrated the contributions of the men and women of Hispanic origin as well as recalling the work of the early Spanish explorers and settlers.

In 1988 Congress passed [Pub. L. 100-402](#) (PDF, 58 KB) which amended [Pub. L. 90-498](#) (PDF, 153 KB) and established National Hispanic Heritage Month. The President was again authorized and requested to issue an annual proclamation designating the “31-day period beginning September 15 and ending on October 15” as National Hispanic Heritage Month. President George H.W. Bush issued the first proclamation, [Presidential Proclamation 6021](#), for National Hispanic Heritage Month on September 14, 1989. Between 1990 and 2007, Presidents George H.W. Bush, Clinton and George W. Bush have issued annual proclamations for National Hispanic Heritage Month. On September 14, 1994, President Clinton issued [Presidential Proclamation 6719](#) which recognized the extraordinary contributions and culture of Hispanic Americans. Most

recently on September 12, 2008, President George W. Bush issued [Presidential Proclamation 8287](#) proclaiming National Hispanic Heritage Month for 2008 celebrating and honoring the accomplishments of Hispanic Americans.

**DID YOU KNOW** 

More than 1 of every 2 people added to the nation's population 2008/2009 were Hispanic!

# Resources for Educators



Explore diverse and rich cultures with printables, and activities such as “Passport to Learning, “Introduction to Mariachi Music,” Rhythmic Patterns and Drums, literature listing, references to accents, language facts, and art. <http://www.teachervision.fen.com>

## Selecting Hispanic-American Books for the Classroom

Educators have a daunting responsibility for selecting high-quality literature that authentically represents many distinct cultural backgrounds. Here are some helpful suggestions for selecting Hispanic and Hispanic-American books for classroom use:

1. Recognize the nature of the labels "Hispanic" and "Hispanic-American," which are umbrella terms that encompass many distinct cultural backgrounds from Central and South America, Spain, and the Caribbean.
2. Distinguish between Hispanic and Hispanic-American literature. Books set in Hispanic countries are valuable for classroom use, but should not supplant those that represent the bicultural experiences of Hispanic Americans living in the U.S. Many children of Hispanic descent in America's classrooms may connect more readily to books set in the U.S. that reflect the mix of cultures woven into their everyday lives.
3. Look for well-written and beautifully illustrated books that present positive and authentic images of Hispanics and Hispanic-Americans. Good culturally conscious books can communicate to children what it means to be proud of their heritage and experience as Hispanic-Americans. Try to include books that go beyond the surface aspects of a culture, like specific holidays and foods, to those that reflect deeper cultural values such as the concern and respect shown between generations in families. For example, *Too Many Tamales!* by Gary Soto and *Erandi's*

*Braids* by Antonio Madrigal present young children with warm images of love and caring between generations in Mexican and Mexican-American families.

Consult award lists specifically honoring varied genres of Hispanic and Hispanic-American books. The biennial Pura Belpré Award for Latino Children's Literature selects excellent examples of high-quality multicultural literature that can be enjoyed by all children, such as *Chato's Kitchen* and *Chato and the Party Animals* by Gary Soto. The annual Americas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature also specializes in honoring books that reflect Hispanic and Caribbean cultures, such as the excellent photo-essay *Fiesta, U.S.A.* by George Ancona.

[InfoPlease](http://www.infoplease.com) <http://www.infoplease.com>

This site is chocked full if information. Search topics include

- ✓ Famous Firsts by Hispanic Americans
- ✓ Hispanic Americans by the Numbers
- ✓ Spanish Loan Words
- ✓ Countries of Origin
- ✓ Spanish Accents
- ✓ Hispanics in Congress
- ✓ Where Spanish is Spoken
- ✓ Hispanic Holidays
- ✓ Spanish Place Names
- ✓ Preference for Racial or Ethnic Terminology
- ✓ Notable Books by Mexican and Mexican-American Authors



**“One of the things I learned the hard way was that it doesn’t pay to get discouraged.”**  
**Lucille Ball**

## bio ● True Story is celebrating Hispanic heritage Month!

Search for bios of all the famous people from activists, judicial, writers, actors, musicians, military and more. Watch short videos. “Hear real stories by real people.” We researched for Hispanic Heritage Month and came up with 21 important people.

Example:

Alberto Gonzales, U.S. attorney General

Ellen Ochoa, Astronaut

Oscar Hijuelos, writer

Rita Moreno, Actress

Roberto Clemente, Baseball

[www.biography.com](http://www.biography.com)

## National Register of Historic Places logs in famous Hispanic sites

<http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/feature/hispanic/>

National Register of Historical Places

The National Register of Historic Places lists many properties significant for Hispanic Heritage. *We take the opportunity of Hispanic Heritage Month to highlight just some of the properties that exemplify the contributions of Hispanic culture and achievement.*

Of particular interest on the site is the section on Teaching with Historic Places.

The [Teaching with Historic Places](#) program offers a series of lesson plans that use places listed in the National Register to examine subjects that are part of history and social studies curricula. Included among the many lessons now available on-line are nine that focus on Hispanic History

## Nebraska

The Nebraska State Historical Society, [Nebraskastudies.org](http://Nebraskastudies.org) and the Mexican American Commission hold a wealth of information regarding the Hispanic influence in Nebraska.

A massive wave of Mexican Americans came to the Midwest between 1900 to 1930. It was estimated in 1920 that Mexicans immigrating to the United States equaled one tenth of the total population of Mexico. In 1900 only 27 Mexicans resided in Nebraska and this number increased to 3,611 by 1910.

The Mexican Revolution pushed families to America mostly via rail/box car. Rail cars delivering individuals to Sidney, Scottsbluff, Ogallala, North Platte, Kearney, Grand Island, Lincoln and Omaha.

Laboring in the beet fields or working in factories, families enjoyed life in the Midwest. They built communities, sent their children to school to learn English and made sacrifices to make this this new home.



Beet harvesting, Scottsbluff ca 1920

Beet harvesting, Lincoln County, ca1938



## TUNE IS LOOKING FOR DIVERSE MUSIC

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services has recently initiated the TUNE project—aimed at encouraging young people in their decisions with health and wellness. TUNE is offering inspiration in these decisions through the music from local and regional artists. The TUNE Song Search is looking for new music from ethnically diverse artists from any genre.

**Up to eight winning artists will be selected, each receiving a \$500 cash prize and studio time. Deadline is October 25, 2010.**

Check out [www.tunemylife.org/songsearch](http://www.tunemylife.org/songsearch) for more information.

TUNE EDUCATIONAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS TOOLKITS TUNE has developed Educational Toolkits over health/wellness topics incorporating music, videos and discussion guides and they are free to educators and organizations. These prove to be very engaging pieces for students. TUNE is looking for teachers that would like to have representatives come to their classroom to present the TUNE project and facilitate a discussion with students.

The research and toolkits can be viewed at:

[/www.dhhs.ne.gov/tune/](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/tune/)

Flyers for the grant available in Spanish and English at:

[www.education.ne.gov/mce/Grants.html](http://www.education.ne.gov/mce/Grants.html)



### [CVS Caremark: Community Grants](#)

CVS Caremark Community Grants support programs that promote independence among children with disabilities, including physical and occupational therapies, speech and hearing therapies, and assistive technology and recreational therapies. Eligibility: nonprofit organizations that serve children with disabilities, located in a state that has a CVS pharmacy/store. Maximum award: **\$5,000. Deadline: October 31, 2010.**

<http://info.cvscaremark.com/community/our-impact/community-grants/children-disabilities>

### [State Farm: Company Grants](#)

State Farm is committed to meeting the needs of communities by giving in three areas: Safe Neighbors (safety), Strong Neighborhoods (community development), and Education Excellence (education). Maximum award: varies. Eligibility: nonprofit, 501(c)3 organizations; Canadian charitable organizations, educational institutions, and governmental entities.

**Deadline: October 31, 2010.** [http://www.statefarm.com/about/part\\_spos/grants/cogrants.asp](http://www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/grants/cogrants.asp)

### [Target: Field Trip Grant](#)



Teachers can use a grant to fund a school field trip that connects their curriculum to out-of-school experiences. It's a great way to engage and inspire students. Apply online ONLY. **Deadline: September 30, 2010.**



**"What we have to do. . . Is find a way to celebrate our diversity and debate our differences without fracturing our communities."**  
*Hillary Clinton*

# National Indian Education Association names Miller 2010 Teacher of the Year

*Vernon Miller from Omaha Nation Public Schools will be honored at NIEA's conference in October 2010*

Vernon Miller, business teacher at Omaha Nation Public Schools, was recently named Teacher of the Year by the National Indian Education Association (NIEA). The award is presented annually to American Indian,

Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian members who have made outstanding contributions to Native education. Recognition for the honor will be made during the 41st Annual NIEA Convention in San Diego, California, on Saturday, October 9, 2010.

The honor of being named Teacher of the Year is awarded to an NIEA member currently teaching in the public schools, tribal/community schools, BIE schools, tribal colleges or university settings. Nominees must show exceptional achievement or performance in providing quality instruction to American Indian, Alaska Native, and/or Native Hawaiian students in one or more of the following areas:

1. developed and practices innovative teaching techniques;
2. improved students academic achievement;
3. significantly impacted school or community;
4. promotes bilingual and multicultural instruction;
5. promotes educational equality for students.

Vernon Miller, part of the Thunder Clan from the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, is a 7th – 12th Grade business teacher with the Omaha Nation Public Schools. A girls' basketball and volleyball coach, he also serves as the Student Council Sponsor. Vernon is the Nebraska Association of Student Councils District IV Advisor, which includes the Student Councils in the Northeast and North Central Nebraska. Under Mr. Miller's leadership and guidance, the Omaha Nation Student Council has been recognized as Nebraska's Most Outstanding Student Council – Gold Level in each of the years 2005-2010. The



*Vernon Miller*  
**Omaha Nation Public Schools**

Student Council has been chosen to serve as the host school for the 2010 State Student Council Convention, which makes Omaha Nation Student Council the first All-Native Student Council to be chosen for such an honor.

Vernon also annually participates in the Association of American Indian Physicians – Patty Iron Cloud National Native American Youth Initiative in Washington, DC, where he serves as a counselor. He is the Vice Chair of the Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee for the Nebraska State Education

Association. Vernon was also selected to serve as a 2010-2011 Ambassador with the Americans for Indian Opportunity Professional Leadership Development Program, where he will represent American Indians with 17 other Ambassadors from around the nation.

Story Courtesy of ESU 1  
[www.esu1.org](http://www.esu1.org)

***"Education is the new weapon of Indian people."***

--Eddie Box, SOUTHERN UTE

People have the ability to adapt. In these modern times we must get educated so the people don't lose. We need lawyers, doctors, nurses, foresters, scientists, educators, carpenters, welders. These skills are needed to help the people. While we are learning, we need to remember to keep the culture, learn the dances, sing the songs, learn the language and maintain the Red Road for future generations.

[www.whitebison.org](http://www.whitebison.org)

# Just Like Us: The True Story of Four Mexican Girls Coming of Age in America

by Helen Thorpe

Reviews (as posted on Amazon.com)

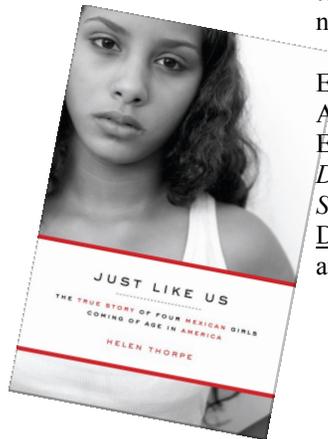
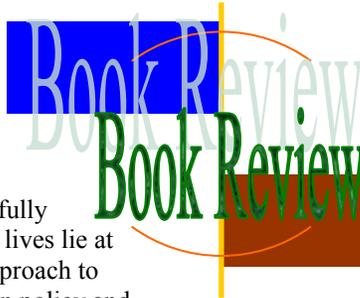
"An excellent, in-depth study of immigration policies gone amok." -- *Library Journal*

"Just Like Us beautifully and powerfully reminds us of the individuals whose lives lie at the center of the chaos that is our approach to immigration. Helen Thorpe has taken policy and turned it into literature." -- Malcolm Gladwell

"With a gaze that is tender and ever alert, Helen Thorpe follows the lives of four young women -- Mexican and American -- so alike in their coming-of-age, but separated by the ironies of geography, the border that cuts through the heart." -- Richard Rodriguez, author of *Brown: The Last Discovery of America*.

Told against the backdrop of the immigration debate in America, the book is an essential read for educators working with immigrant populations or with students straddling a cultural divide.

Author Helen Thorpe details the successes and struggles of these ambitious and bright students as they attend the same Denver high school and make plans to attend college.



## Educational Week Teacher Bookclub

Keep an eye out for a Book Backgrounder in the next few weeks! Discussion will run the week of Oct. 25-29. It's not too late to register! Sign up for [free book club updates](#).

Sponsored by Harvard Education Press. For more information about the book club event to go [edweek.org](#) and sign up for the free e-newsletter "Teacher Update"

This free e-newsletter is a service of Editorial Projects in Education, Inc., 6935 Arlington Road, Suite 100, Bethesda, MD 20814. EPE is the publisher of *Education Week*, *Digital Directions*, *Teacher Professional Development Sourcebook*, [edweek.org](#), [teachermagazine.org](#), [DigitalDirections.org](#), [TeacherSourcebook.org](#), and [TopSchoolJobs.org](#).

"An excellent, in-depth study of immigration policies gone amok." -- *Library Journal*



<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/weshallremain/>  
Behind the Scenes is a documentary of the film makers of We Shall Remain. Meet the cast and crew.

Click on "more about the project" on the website and explore the teacher resources which include an extensive teacher guide for social studies and standards.



**8** imagine

**"Everyone you can imagine is real."  
Pablo Picasso**



**What happens next???**  
**That is up to you**

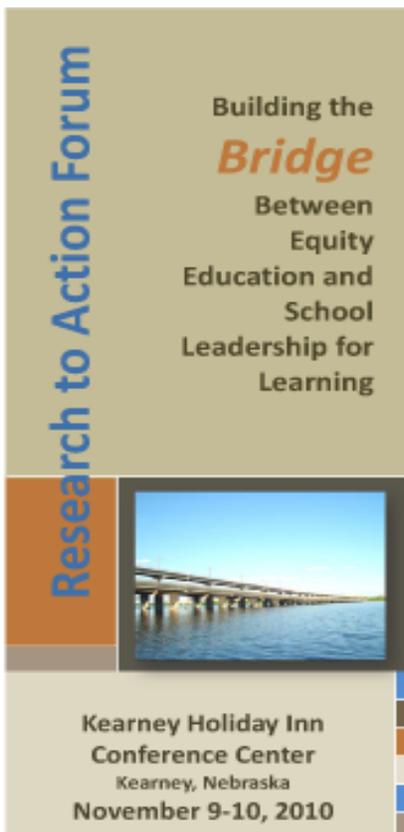
**Freedom from Bullies**  
**October 18-24**

**Pledge bullying to stop in your school. It's against the law and school rules.**

State Board of Education adopts resolution for recognizing Nebraska School Bullying Awareness Week October 3-10.

Teaching Tolerance offers educators FREE teaching kits and magazines. The site includes 33 activities for grades 6 to 8, 32 activities for grades 3 to 5, 20 activities for grades 9 to 12 and 24 activities for grades 1 to 2. Staff development materials is also included. Sign up free to receive updates. [www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)

ADL: Anti-Defamation League hosts a wealth of information on anti-bullying materials and civil rights issues. [www.adl.org](http://www.adl.org)



**Research to Action Forum**

**Building the Bridge**  
Between  
Equity  
Education and  
School  
Leadership for  
Learning



**Kearney Holiday Inn  
Conference Center**  
Kearney, Nebraska  
November 9-10, 2010

Together we can identify common concerns and begin to create action plans that you can implement within your individual institutions.

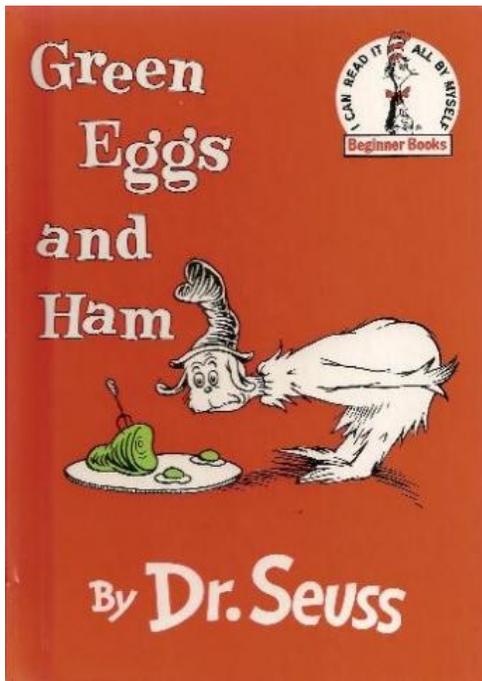
**Our Forum Audience**

- ✓ School Teams Schools are expected to send a leadership team of 3-5 minimum that may include: administrators, teacher-leaders, curriculum directors, school board members, federal programs staff
- ✓ Policy Makers
- ✓ Post Secondary Teacher Education Department Teams
- ✓ Nebraska Department of Education Staff Teams
- ✓ Educational Service Unit Teams

**Speakers:**

- Dr. Thomas Peacock
- Dr. Sharroky Hollie
- Dr. Bradley Scott

Visit our website to download the brochure and register online. [www.education.ne.gov/mce](http://www.education.ne.gov/mce)



Original Dr. Seuss

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY

A result of a \$50 bet on 50 words.

The bet...\$50 between Theodor Seuss Geisel and his Random House editor, Bennett Cerf. Could Geisel do it? Could he take 50 different words that would inspire the young to want to learn to read?

Green Eggs and Ham exploded in the literacy world. Over 200 million copies have been sold and is the fourth best selling book in children's literature.

The history of Dr. Seuss books can be found at [www.catinthehat.org/history.htm](http://www.catinthehat.org/history.htm)

Would you eat them in a [box](#)?  
Would you eat them with a [fox](#)?

Not in a [box](#).

Not with a [fox](#).

Not in a [house](#).

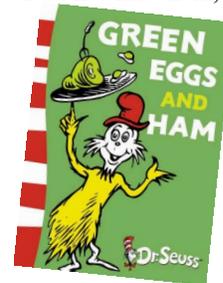
Not with a [mouse](#).

I would not eat them here or [there](#).

I would not eat them [anywhere](#).

I would not eat [green eggs](#) and [ham](#).

I do not like them, [Sam-I-am](#).



October:	Positive Attitude Month Head Start Awareness Month Celebrate the Bilingual Child Month National Reading Group Month
Oct. 1	World Smile Day
Oct. 2	National Custodian (School) Day
Oct. 5	World Teacher's Day
Oct. 17-23	National Character Counts Week
Oct. 17-23	School Bus Safety Week
Oct. 18-24	Freedom from Bullies Week
Oct. 23	Make a Difference Day

**Plan Ahead**



*How diverse are YOU?*

### 5th Anniversary

It's **our** day to CELEBRATE who we are no matter what our age is, our nationality, disability, gender, race or religion. Plan now for October 1 and for Diversity Month for October.

**National  
Diversity  
OCT 1 Day**



**“Kids: they dance before they learn there is anything that isn’t music.”**  
*William Cox*



**Teacher and Student Workshops**

Lied Center-Lincoln  
[www.liedcenter.org](http://www.liedcenter.org)

Student matinees scheduled at nominal fee of \$4.00 per individual.  
 Midsummer Night’s Dream, November 2010  
 Alice in Wonderland, February 2011  
 Disney’s Choo Choo Soul, March 2011

Teacher workshops scheduled:

1. Dramatizing the Content with Curriculum Based Readers Theatre, teachers of grades 5-12
2. Poetry Off the Page, teachers of grades 5-8

Teacher resources:

1. Kennedy Center Partners in Education Program Performance Guides
2. Professional Development for Teachers
3. Professional Development for Teaching Artists

**Plum Creek Literacy Festival**  
**Celebrate Literacy: October 7-9**

Concordia College-Seward  
[www.cune.edu/plumcreek](http://www.cune.edu/plumcreek)

October 8-Children’s Day  
 October 9-Adult Conference

Meet the authors and illustrators  
 Ashley Bryan  
 Sarah Weeks  
 Alyssa Satin Capucilli  
 Pat Schories  
 Ralph Massiello  
 Patricia Polacco  
 Dan Gutman



Some workshop topics from local educators/writers:

- ✓ “Boy, Oh Boy!” Understanding and Supporting Boy Writers”
- ✓ “Just Knowing the Sounds is NOT Enough”
- ✓ Panels of first year elementary and middle level teachers (Language Arts)
- ✓ “Differentiating Literature for Students of All Abilities”

**Motivating Unmotivated Students**



Native American Symposium  
 November 1, 2010  
 Wayne State College  
 Sponsors

Nebraska Department of Education and ESU 1  
 Online registration at [www.education.ne.gov/mce](http://www.education.ne.gov/mce)