

**DELIVERING THE
MULTICULTURAL
MESSAGE
MONTHLY**

Hot Topic

Win \$5,000 and a trip to New York
Showcase your healthy school. [See page 5](#) and get your video cameras rolling.

Hot Topic

They left a legacy

Two civil rights leaders that made a mark on our lives. Remembering Dorothy Height and Benjamin Hooks. [See page 2](#)

**HOW SOME
SCHOOLS
INCREASED
GRADUATION
RATE OF MINORITY
STUDENTS: HISPANIC OUTLOOK**



May 2010

[Nebraska Department of Education](#)

Office of Multicultural/Native American Education

www.education.ne.gov/nativeamer

Equity Education at Work

Carol Remp

I have a new hero; or should I say several new heroes. During the past week I have read amazing stories about a group of students from Prescott, Wisconsin. Now don't get me wrong we have lots of amazing students here in Nebraska, too. However, I have to say that these students did something that I have never seen before. And because of their bravery, forward thinking, compassion to humankind, and determination they are heroes to me. Below is an email I received from my good friend and colleague, JP Leary, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Consultant for the American Indian Studies Program. JP is responding to an article that Tim Giago wrote about the work of Jeff Ryan and his students. Also below are several links to articles, the short documentary video that was seen across Wisconsin and interviews that were conducted after Governor Jim Doyle signed SB 25.

Why does any of this matter to us in Nebraska? It matters because one teacher in one town worked with a few students to make a change because it was the right thing to do. A group of students stood up for social justice. A teacher and a group of students didn't get bogged down and say we can't do this because we have standardized tests to worry about.

They learned life lessons. One teacher in one town found a way to integrate social justice and equity education into a curriculum that met standards and helped his students achieve the highest of expectations. One teacher and his students showed us all what school is really all about. One teacher in one town with a small group of students set the example. Now it's our turn. How will we look at issues of social justice across our state? Who will be the teacher who will guide and challenge his/her students to make a stand for social justice?

JP Leary wrote:

Nearly two years ago, students in Jeff Ryan's classes at Prescott High School began exploring issues related to the use of Native names and imagery as school nicknames, mascots, and logos. Based on what they learned, these students chose to become involved in efforts to change this practice as a matter of educational policy. They testified at hearings before the Assembly and Senate Education Committees, lobbied legislators (and in some cases, used their spring break to do so), and

attended the bill signing. Along the way, they participated in an educational video called Engage, a resource for learning about state, local, and tribal governments. See <http://www.ecb.org/engage/takingAstand.htm> for the video segment on state government that features Jeff Ryan and several of his students.

These are impressive young people, inspired and guided by an outstanding teacher and mentor. They possess sophisticated analytical, communication, leadership, and advocacy skills, and they have applied them in presentations about their efforts at state and national conferences. Despite the attention that their participation has garnered, they recognize that they were joining an effort that stretches back decades. As high school student Brenna Ryan notes, "There have been so many people (Native Americans) who have been working for so long to make the dream of eliminating Indian mascots and logos come true in Wisconsin and around the United States." See

[Continue page 5](#)

Hot Topic

Road Trip Nebraska

Hop in the car and plan your cultural events right here in Nebraska. Explore Nebraska and our ethnic heritages. And....most activities are FREE. [See page 8.](#)

Hot Topic

At your fingertips

Compiled data for all 50 states demonstrating need for improved standards and assessments. [See page 4.](#)



Educators

We have compiled a list of summer opportunities. Deadlines are fast approaching. Plan your summer now to include a few offerings found on [pages 6 and 7.](#)



“A good history covers not only what was done, but the thought that went into the action. You can read the history of a country through its actions.”

Benjamin Hooks

They left a legacy

Dorothy Height, Civil Rights Leader 1912-2010

Height was president of the National Council of Negro Women for forty years. Born in Virginia, she was admitted to Barnard College. She was denied entrance due to her race. Transferring to the New York University, she earned her degree in 1932 and a master's in educational psychology in 1933. She became a caseworker with the New York Welfare Department after graduation.

Height organized “Wednesdays in Mississippi during

the intense moments of the civil rights movement in of the 1960s.

American leaders Eleanor Roosevelt, Eisenhower and John looked to her for advice.

She shared the platform when Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech in 1963. As chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, she was an honored guest and seated on the stage during President Obama's inauguration.

Her written memoirs *Open Wide the Freedom Gates* showcases her perspective on civil rights .



Benjamin Hooks, Civil Rights Leader 1925-2010

Benjamin Hooks led the NAACP from 1977 to 1992. Noted as a “vocal campaigner for civil rights in the United States., Hooks grew up in the segregated South.

Hooks learned discipline from his parents and was strict about his appearance, attitude and education. Earning his law degree before entering the Army during World War II, Hooks found himself in a humiliating position. He guarded Italian prisoners of war. These prisoners were allowed to dine in restaurants that Hooks was not allowed to enter. This experience made him return to Memphis to help the racial plight.

As a professor in the political science department of the University of Memphis, he was

ordained with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

President Richard Nixon placed Hooks on the Federal Communications Commission board to bring a minority point of view to the Commission.

In 1972 the NAACP membership was declining. With Benjamin Hooks devotion, the organization grew to several hundred thousand after his appointment to director.

He worked with the Major League Baseball to offer employment to African Americans. He also worked with over 200 corporations to agree to participate in economic development project in black communities.

In 1979, Mr. Hooks led the historic prayer vigil in Washington D.C. against the Mott anti-busing amendment, which was defeated in Congress.

In 2007 President George W. Bush awarded Hooks the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

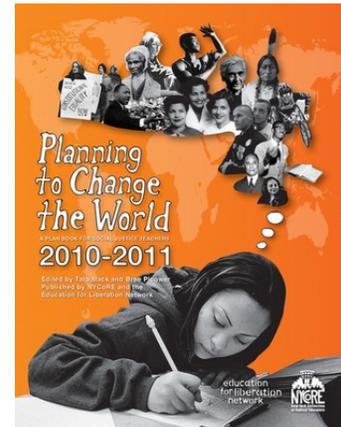


Planning to Change the Word?

A plan book for educators who believe!

Planning to Change the Word: A Plan Book for Social Justice Teachers 2010-2011 is for educators who believe their students can and will change the world.

This book is receiving rave reviews. It contains thought provoking questions to spark classroom discussion, online lesson plans, resources, and tips for teachers, weekly planning pages with historical events.



Edited by Tara Mack and Bree Picower
ISBN 0942961900

How Some Schools Increased Graduation Rate of Minority Students

[Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education, The, Apr 19, 2010](#) by [Blankenship, Mark](#)



Ask Jennifer Engle about the biggest challenges facing minority students who want a college education, and she does something that many of us might forget to do. She pushes her answer beyond the day that college acceptance letters are mailed.

Engle is assistant director of higher education for Ee Education Trust, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that aims to close the gaps that keep many minority and low-income students from high academic achievement. Late last year, she co-authored a pair of briefs that analyze the success of public colleges and universities in graduating their minority undergraduate students within six years.

Link provided above to the entire article

“We certainly still have an access problem in this country,” Engle says. “But one of the factors that’s under attended is the fact that staying in college, even more than getting into college, is really the hard part.”



This date is in history...May 31 the Supreme Court ordered school integration "with all deliberate speed." 1955

At your fingertips

The Alliance for Excellent Education has compiled data for all 50 states relevant to the need for improved standards and assessments and the potential benefits of educating all students to meet the common college- and career-ready core standards. <http://www.all4ed.org/publication/material/commonstandardsstatecards>

Closing the achievement gap?

A New York Post review of data from the city's Department of Education found that African-American charter-school students were 60 percent more likely than their traditional public school counterparts to earn a seat in one of New York City's "specialized" high schools last year. http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/for_minorities_charter_school_boost_uoRHGafy1G2x2XkLrtojRI#ixzz0n8hv5TQX

Piling on

Arizona's superintendent of public instruction is seeking to end ethnic studies classes, which he claims segregate students by race. <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/2010/05/01/20100501arizona-bill-bans-ethnic-studies.html#ixzz0n8plqbg3>
Related: <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/2010/05/05/20100505arizona-school-district-owes-state-money.html>

Wisconsin makes it a law

Fines in places for schools that do not comply.

The bill sets up a process for their state superintendent to decide whether mascots are offensive. If found offensive, the school has one year to change their imagery.

Mishicot School District in Wisconsin is fighting this law. They have written permission from the tribal affiliates to use their Indian nickname and logo. The community is named after Native American Chief Abraham Mishicot.

A school could keep its team name if the name was of a federally recognized tribe and with tribal consent.

Indian Country Today conducted a survey "Respectful gesture or negative stereotype?" Of the respondents, 81% stated the use of American Indian names, symbols and mascots were offensive and deeply disparaging.

The survey suggested if used, the schools should obtain approval and basic guidelines of use to avoid non-stereotypical suggestions or create a hostile educational environment.

The debates on this subject have dated back to the mid 1990s. Wisconsin Indian educators brought this issue to the National Indian Education Association in 1997 to create a nation-wide effort to ban the mascots from schools.

To this day, not much has been done. A few professional organizations have changed their imagery. Schools are beginning. It will be time before Oklahoma, New York and California adopt similar laws.



[Link to Wisconsin's law](#)



Sergio Vieira de Mello

HBO Documentary *Sergio* Includes Teaching Tolerance Lessons

Sergio Vieira de Mello was a dashing Brazilian humanitarian who served the United Nations for more than 30 years as the consummate international troubleshooter. He was killed in a hotel bombing in Iraq in 2003. HBO will air a documentary about Sergio's dramatic exploits. Teaching Tolerance created the [teaching guide to support and supplement this important film](#).

Students get out your video cameras and win \$5,000 and a New York trip



WIN!!! Is your school making healthy changes? [Healthier Generation.org](http://www.healthiergeneration.org) is inviting YOU to submit a short video sharing what your school is doing to get students eating healthier and moving more.
<http://www.healthiergeneration.org/schools.aspx>

CNN commissioned a study on children's racial beliefs, attitudes and preferences. It was aired May 14th on AC360 with Cooper Anderson. A short video is on the CNN website and worth watching.

The accompanying article, "A white child says a black child is dumb because she has dark skin. A black child says a white child is ugly because he's white."

It further states that 60 years after Brown v. Board of Education, white children have an overwhelming white bias and black children also have a bias toward white. The student further concluded that children's ideas about race change little from age 5 to age 10.

Everyone needs to watch this video and then THINK, where are we going to be in another 5 years, 10 years or ??? years. [See the video and article](#)



Black and white children biased toward lighter skin

Continue from page 1

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tim-giago/prescott-high-school-stud_b_566303.html for Tim Giago's latest article, which features students from Prescott High School.

His students are amazing kids, and I am convinced that one guy is going to be Governor of Wisconsin someday. All this reflects back on him as their teacher, how he inspires them, the knowledge, skills, and passion to act that he equipped them with. It was painful to hear them attacked by pro-logo senators the day of the senate vote. They saw it too, on Wisconsin Eye (sort of like CSPAN for state government), and wrote letters in response, thanking the senators for acknowledging their efforts. Good to the last drop.

Here is a Wisconsin Public Television Short Documentary on the work Jeff Ryan's students did that aired around the state in February. <http://www.ecb.org/engage/takingAstand.htm>

On May 5, 2010 Governor Jim Doyle signed SB 25, a bill that creates a new procedure for addressing the use of "Indian" mascots, logos, and nicknames by Wisconsin schools. The bill itself can be found at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2009/data/SB25hst.html>. A brief summary of the story, and links to news coverage, can be found on indianz.com at <http://64.38.12.138/News/2010/019650.asp>

The Wisconsin State Journal has a story available at: http://host.madison.com/news/state-and-regional/wisconsin/article_16bb230c-5837-5784-840d-7bdc6880ee35.html

Following yesterday's bill signing ceremony, Paul DeMain, from the Hayward-based News From Indian Country, conducted interviews via Skype. The interview with Richie Plass was included in yesterday's online broadcast at http://indiancountrynews.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=9050&Itemid=1.

Additional interviews with the bill sponsors, Sen. Spencer Coggs, and Rep. Jim Soletski, with WIEA "Indian" Mascot/Logo Task Force Chair Barbara Munson, with students from Prescott HS, and with Christine Munson, will be included in follow-up pieces potentially as soon as today. If you have not seen it, the second part of Paul DeMain's interviews can be found at

http://indiancountrynews.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=9067&Itemid=138



The world cares very little what you or I know, but it does care a great deal about what you and I do.
Booker T. Washington

2010 Summer Seminars Reclaiming Youth
Rapid City, South Dakota



www.reclaiming.com

- Circle of Courage: June 26
- Reclaiming Youth Conference: June 26-29
- Response Ability Pathways: June 30-July 2
- Developmental Audit: June 30-July 2
- Life Space Crisis Intervention: June 21-25
- The Person Brain Model: June 24-25

Northern Arizona University's College of Education is pleased to announce an American Indian Education Conference to allow community, preschool, K-12, college, and university indigenous educators and activists through panels, workshops, and papers to share ideas for improving American Indian education with a focus on the type of preparation Indian Nations want for teachers in their schools.

For more information contact
Jon Reyhner at 928 523 0580 or Jon.Reyhner@nau.edu
or Louise Lockard at 928 523 8218 or Louise.Lockard@nau.edu

**2nd Annual American Indian
Teacher Education Conference**
Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff, Arizona, June 11-12, 2010



**Bully-Dating Violence...
Making the Connection**

- Define/characterize bullying
- Define/characterize dating violence
- Recognize!
- Identify!

June 17
Scottish rite Masonic Center-Omaha

Offered by R.E.S.P.E.C.T.
Contact Sue Behr at 4902-393-4422 or
email at info@respect2all.org
Registration Deadline: June 1



<http://www.niea.org/events/overview.php>

Visit the website to download the information packet



- ✓ Award Nominations: May 28
- ✓ Board of Director Nominations: July 9
- ✓ Workshop Proposals: August 6
- ✓ Scholarship Nominations: August 23



Thursday, June 10
Friday, June 11

guest speaker
MK Mueller



Westridge Middle School-
Grand Island



www.nebraskamiddlelevelacademy.org (now open)

Nebraska Middle Level Academy
 midlevelacademy

After 300 years

Bringing the Pawnee and Arikara
Together Again



DANCERS OF THE PLAINS

FRI/SAT
JUNE 18-19

Great Platte River Archway-Kearney
<http://www.archway.org/>

13th Annual Kindergarten Conference

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF TEACHING...
UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN AND HOW THEY
LEARN, KNOWING THE RESEARCH, AND
"MAKING THE MATCH" FOR EVERY CHILD



July 14-15, 2010
Holiday Inn
Kearney NE

Speakers:
Cindy Middendorf,
New Hampshire
Kim Atwill, Denver Colorado

Nebraska Dept of Education-Early Childhood.

Full conference information:
<http://ectc.nde.ne.gov/>

Save the Date!



7th Annual Hispanic/Latino Summit "La Raza C6smica"

Monday, September 20, 2010
Embassy Suites Omaha - La Vista
Hotel & Conference Center
12520 Westport Parkway
La Vista, NE 68128

Sponsored by :

Nebraska Department of Education in partnership with the Mexican-American Commission
Target Audience: Educators, Community Members, Parents, Students

For more information: www.latinosummit.org
Contact: Kelly or Angie 1-800-793-6272 or 402-476-8055



**"We've got to work to save our children and do it with full respect for the fact that if we do not, no one else is going to do it."
Dorothy Height**

Nebraska is rich with summer cultural events. For a 33 page list of activities in Nebraska, visit www.visitnebraska.gov.

23rd Annual Grundlovsfest (Danish Days) (www.dannebrog.org)
June 5, Dannebrog NE

Czech Festivals: many are regional and can be found next to you

Midsommarfest (Swedish Days) (www.justtheplacenebraska.com)
June 18-20, Holdrege NE

Polish Days (www.loupcity.com)
June 4-6, Loup City NE

11th Annual Intertribal Gathering at Fort Robinson
(www.panhandlercd.com)
June 11-13, Crawford NE

Celebrate Lincoln International Festival
(www.celebratelincolin.org)
June 18-19, Lincoln NE

Ethnic Festival; Celebrating Ethnic Cultures of the Area
June 25-27, Grand Island NE

Mexican Fiesta
July 8-10, North Platte NE

Greek Festival
August 14-15, Bridgeport NE

Genoa Indian School Celebration (www.megavision.net/genoamuseum)

August 14; Genoa NE

Ponca Tribe 17th Annual Powwow (www.poncatribene.org)
August 13-15, Niobrara NE

Nebraska Humanities Council Presents: "Nebraska's Mexican American Legacy" by Jose Francisco
August 31, Scotts Bluff National Monument, Gering, NE

The Nebraska Indian Commission has a listing of state Pow Wows at their website.
www.indianaffairs.state.ne.us.

