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Canadian Diversity: Session 3 Culturally-Responsive Pedagogy

Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016
Place: OISE (252 Bloor West) room 5-160 (5th floor)
(St. George Subway Station)
Time: 7:00 - 9:15 p.m

How can we teach to the diversities that exist in every classroom integrating current curriculum and practice with the backgrounds and experiences of our students?
Building on the previous sessions the panel will share their experiences and ideas with each other and with the audience.

Our Panelists

Lesa Williams-George, Sandra Fryer and John Duwyn

John has been a teacher in both the Dufferin-Peel Catholic and Toronto District School Boards. He has taught in the primary, junior and intermediate divisions. He has a strong background in special education, and specifically developing differentiated curriculum and working with students identified as gifted.

He was seconded to O.I.S.E for three years as a Coordinator of the Midtown Option where he taught pre-service candidates in the Bachelor of Education program and coordinated practicum placements in partner schools. He also taught math and social studies. John has been an elementary school Principal with the Toronto District School Board since 2005. He is presently a Central Coordinating Principal for School Effectiveness in TDSB where he is responsible for the organization, management and implementation of the School Effectiveness Framework and leading District Process in schools.

Sandra has been an educator for over 26 years. Currently, Cross Curricular Head of International Programs in the Peel District School Board, from her beginnings as a grade 4/5 classroom teacher to that of principal in a Kuwaiti secondary school, Sandra has spent her career trying to make curriculum accessible to the many learners she encounters. She has also taught AQ courses at OISE including the Honour Specialist History program and has participated in ministry writing projects dealing with issues of equity in specific curricula.

Sandra has also been part of an informal network of teachers organized by an OISE instructor sharing ideas and responding to suggestions and current issues in teaching and learning. Her classes were also part of a doctoral study looking at the impact of co-operative small group learning in destreamed high school classrooms.

Lesa is currently a Principal with the Toronto District School Board. She works in a primary school with students up to grade 5. Alongside a regular English program, Broadacres hosts an Early French Immersion program and a Gifted program for junior students. Lesa successfully leads a team of teachers and support staff that delivers a differentiated instruction to meet the learning needs of her diverse student population.

A graduate of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) , Lesa holds qualifications in Junior and Intermediate teaching. She is also qualified in the primary division. Her 15 years of teaching experience spans grades 1 to 12. She specialises in early literacy development and special education. Her grounding in culturally responsive pedagogy stems from her early teaching experiences in inner city schools and multiple ethnic learning environments.

As a curriculum leader, Lesa has planned and facilitated many professional development workshops for practicing teachers. She has over 10 years of experience as an instructor at OISE teaching Reading Part One, Two and Three, both on- line and face-to-face.

To register, email pdkut.register@gmail.com. This is a FREE event