



The Holmes Partnership™

Holmes Office (414) 229-5702

Winter 2008 • January 27, 2008

Newsletter Office (614) 253-4731



President Alfonzo Thurman passes the gavel to President-Elect Catherine Emihovich

Ladson-Billings Delivers

A dynamic keynote address opened the Annual Holmes Conference. Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings laid out the facets concerning Multicultural Teacher Education in our country. It is clear that very little has changed in the last thirty years. Her simple summary is that Multicultural Teacher Education is “barely breathing now” and efforts to improve the situation are languishing at best. She did an excellent breakdown by running through the comparative responses ranging from *no problem* to *not so bad* to *so bad nothing can help*. The large crowd seemed mesmerized by her information. She challenged everyone to stand up for proper hiring environments, to stop repeating past mistakes, to understand that our problems are not unique and that we must not let Multicultural Teacher Education *die of neglect*.

We must remember that:

- a diverse teaching force helps all students
- incentives to teachers in the more difficult schools do help;

- everyone should rethink admissions because the percentage of teachers of color is down; and
- that there is no evidence that teaching staffs of one color get better results.

A question and answer session hammered home the world-wide value of diversity in education.

Dr. Ladson-Billings delivered the right message to launch this conference. It challenged all of us to pledge ourselves once again to the *signature work* of the Holmes Partnership.

Effective Partnership Factors

Many times people ask the question of what is an effective partnership? Here are a few ideas on the subject, sort of a starting point for the partnership.

Shared Vision: The partners share a common view of the objectives, results, outcomes and importance of the relationship.

Shared Resources: Each partner makes an appropriate commitment whether it be people, knowledge, technology, time or capital.

Shared Risk: Each partner is prepared to deal with an appropriate, fair and equal level of risk.

Shared Values: A shared value system is the foundation of the relationship which provides the motivation and commitment to resolve problems.

Shared Rewards: Each partner shares in the rewards so that all work together to create mutual wins.

2008 Teacher Leadership Breakfast: Closing the Achievement Gap

More than 40 teacher leaders, teacher educators, Holmes Scholars, Holmes Partnership Board members and representatives from national partners discussed the value of partnerships and needs related to closing the achievement gap.

A few of the highlights from table discussions include the need to:

- examine the next level of partnerships, including structural changes;
- promote policies that encourage collaboration and a clear focus on closing the achievement gap;
- develop leadership skills in all educators aligned with the goal of closing the achievement gap;
- extend partnerships to community organizations and others concerned with student success;
- encourage teachers as researchers to investigate factors related to closing the achievement gap;
- promote the value of the PDS to help teachers understand the complexities of the educational system and how to better serve their students; and
- communicate the power of partnerships to retain a diverse workforce of PK-12 teachers.

After the session ended, participants continued discussions in small groups with colleagues from their tables or with **Rick Ellenberg**, Florida Teacher of the Year, who also facilitated one of the table groups.

The Teacher Leadership breakfast does result in action! As a result of what she learned last year, **Sharon Cormany Ornelas**, and her colleagues initiated a 2007 conference in Minneapolis, Practice Made Public and are presenting at this year's conference. Kudos to Sharon and her colleagues.

Finally, participants were encouraged to consider submitting articles for an upcoming Holmes Partnership newsletter, edited by **John Grossman** (contact John at jgrossman@ceao-hio.org), as well as submitting articles to the Journal of Teacher Research (contact **Fran Peterman** at f.peterman@scuohio.edu). For copies of the summary notes of this breakfast or questions about the Holmes Partnership work on teacher leadership, contact **Sylvia Auton** (contact Sylvia at sauton@gmail.com).

President of the Holmes Scholars Council

Joining the Board as a new member last year was Cheron Hunter. She is the President of the Holmes Scholars Council and is seated on the Board of Directors as the Scholars Representative. Cheron is from the Auburn Partnership Network at Auburn University. This is in the Holmes Partnership Southeastern Region. Her term expires at the 2009 national meeting of Holmes.

Saluting our Sponsors

The following organizations have helped us by being sponsors of this conference. We want to thank them for their assistance. We could not have accomplished what we did without their help.

- Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals

- Silverstrong and Associates: Thoughtful Education Press
- University of Florida College of Education
- University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Education.

How Can We Help

The Holmes Partnership is prepared to provide assistance to our member partnerships. We can help you grow to:

- make a greater impact on teaching practice and policy in your state;
- access the latest promising practices in teaching and learning;
- generate research that makes a difference locally and nationally; and
- have a more powerful voice in educational reform and renewal.

This remains a very unique organization. Very few organizations bring together so many diverse individuals focused on education. Notable among the contributions of Holmes are the Professional Development School (PDS), the Holmes Scholars™ program and the iconic Trilogy. Holmes continues to insist on bringing everyone to the table. In unity with our great national partners, we certainly practice what we preach.

Plan Ahead

Next year, the Annual Holmes Partnership Conference will be held in San Francisco. It is not too early to plan locally for this event. The conference will be held from January 22–25, 2009. It will be held at the Hilton San Francisco. Although, we know that each individual can benefit from the conference, the program is designed for a team. We are about the business of partnerships. Please try to bring a team of colleagues from your local partnership. This will allow you to attend more workshops, benefit from the very-full program offered and even get a break on conference fees. We hope to see all of you in San Francisco.

The Holmes Partnership™

Working to improve teaching and learning.

Transforms teaching and learning through the creation, development and expansion of university/school/community partnerships to serve the public good.

The Holmes Partnership™
P.O. Box 11697, Milwaukee, WI 53211-0697
414-229-5702 • Fax: 414-229-6548
www.holmespartnership.org