12th Annual

Hip Hop in the Heartland
Educator and Community Leader Training Institute
April 10, 2017
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dr. David E. Kirkland
Michael Cirelli
Dr. Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz
Dr. Bettina Love
Hip Hop in the Heartland draws from educational theories such as socio-cultural theory, culturally relevant pedagogy, critical race theory, and hip hop and social justice pedagogies, to help educators and community leaders connect hip hop as both an art form and an instructional tool to improve the academic success of students who remain marginalized in our schools.

Participants learn proven, hands-on techniques to develop lesson plans and strengthen their course study, as well as create a platform from which they will understand the scope of hip hop history, culture and politics. Evening programming consists of an all-star cast who will synthesize the day trainings with effective strategies and cutting-edge multicultural educational approaches.

**Hip Hop in the Heartland is specifically designed for:**

Classroom teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, school personnel, community educators, college educators, community leaders, education students, hip hop and spoken word educators and practitioners, and anyone committed to social justice and urban education.

Gain a better understanding of the scope of hip hop history, culture, and politics. Deepen your practice as a spoken word and hip hop educator, and engage in best practice approaches to student-centered liberatory education models.

- Discover the best practices in hip hop and spoken word pedagogy
- Learn skills to better reach and mentor your students
- Improve academic achievement, reduce behavior issues and energize your classroom
- Get practical strategies for increasing participation and building community
- Meet new colleagues and enjoy UW-Madison's beautiful campus!

**AGENDA OVERVIEW**

8-9am    Registration
9-10am   History of Hip-Hop in the Heartland & Hip-Hop Education with Michael Cirelli
10-11:45am  The Art of Identity and Culture with Dr. Yolanda Sealy-Ruiz
12-1pm   Lunch
1:15-3pm  The Righteous Struggle: Promoting Educational Justice in the Era of Trump with Dr. David Kirkland
3:15-5pm  We Want To Do More Than Survive: A Pedagogy of Mattering with Dr. Bettina Love
THE HISTORY OF HIP-HOP IN THE HEARTLAND & HIP-HOP EDUCATION

Hip-Hop in the Heartland has been a trailblazing space in providing dynamic training opportunities for teachers and activists on their journeys as hip-hop educators for more than a decade. This session will explore the history of the hip-hop education movement and the many leaders, educators and scholars who have made their mark. Participants will leave with resources and exercises that are ready to use in the classroom.

THE ART OF IDENTITY AND CULTURE

In this hands-on, interactive session, participants will explore how poetry, Hip Hop, and art-making encourage discourse on culture, identity, and place. Poetry and art-making will be used to invite self-reflection, self-exploration, and an examination of how culture both permeates and can be an outlet for creativity in the classroom.

THE RIGHTEOUS STRUGGLE: PROMOTING EDUCATIONAL JUSTICE IN THE ERA OF TRUMP

This presentation is based on over a decade of research aimed at understanding the complexities of teaching and learning in urban settings. The goal of the presentation is to raise awareness of the effects of educational injustices in the lives of urban youth in order to interrupt cycles of miseducation. The presentation addresses the following questions: How do cycles of inequity influence how, why, and what urban youth learn (and do not/refuse to learn)? How might critical educators disrupt such cycles to empower urban youth to transform their own communities, lives, educational destinies, etc.? In addressing these questions, the presentation aims to examine, perhaps more holistically, the peculiar deficit politics of urban education, exploring instead the power of the spoken and written word, as it constructs and deconstructs opportunities for learning and liberation. The presentation closes by suggesting that, from a liberatory perspective, urban youth take on new meanings beginning with a voice and a verb, where youth when affirm, valued, and respected have the power to transform the world inside-out.

WE WANT TO DO MORE THAN SURVIVE: A PEDAGOGY OF MATTERING

Pedagogies that promote social justice must have teeth. They must move beyond feel-good language and gimmicks to help educators understand and recognize America and its schools as spaces of Whiteness and White rage, which function to terrorize students of color. A Pedagogy of Mattering is an attempt to provide educators with a teaching framework to arm the most vulnerable students with the position that they can do more than just survive by being civically engaged in the fight for humanity and justice.

Faculty

Michael Cirelli is the Executive Director of Urban Word, one of the nation's leading youth literary arts and youth development organizations, with offices in New York City, Los Angeles, and 35 partner cities across the United States. He is the author of 4 award-winning collections of poetry, 3 volumes of curriculum, and has been featured on CNN, HBO, and NPR. Most recently, he was invited to the White House by First Lady Michelle Obama to celebrate the National Youth Poet Laureate Program, which he founded in 2008. He is currently working on a virtual reality platform, EyeQVR, to bring the power of VR to arts and education.

Dr. Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz is an Associate Professor of English Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. Her research interests include racial literacy development, Black and Latino male students, Black girl literacies, Black female college reentry, and Culturally Responsive Pedagogy. At Teachers College (TC) she is founder and faculty sponsor of the Racial Literacy Roundtable Series, where for eight years, national scholars, doctoral, pre-service and in-service Master's students, and young people in schools facilitate informal conversations around race and other issues of diversity in schools and society.

Dr. David E. Kirkland is the Executive Director of The NYU Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and The Transformation of Schools. He is also an activist and educator, cultural critic and author. Dr. Kirkland earned his PhD from Michigan State University and his JD from the University of Michigan. A Detroit native, his transdisciplinary scholarship explores intersections among race, gender, and education. With many groundbreaking publications to his credit, he has analyzed the cultures, languages, and texts of urban youth, using critical literacy, ethnographic, and sociolinguistic research methods to answer complex questions at the center of equity and social justice in education.

A Search Past Silence: The Literacy of Black Males, the fifth book that Dr. Kirkland has authored, is a TC Press bestseller and was invited to the White House by First Lady Michelle Obama to celebrate the National Youth Poet Laureate Program, which he founded in 2008. He is currently working on a virtual reality platform, EyeQVR, to bring the power of VR to arts and education.

Dr. Bettina L. Love is an award-winning author and Associate Professor of Educational Theory & Practice at the University of Georgia. Her research focuses on the ways in which urban youth negotiate Hip Hop music and culture to form social, cultural, and political identities to create new and sustaining ways of thinking about urban education and social justice. Her research also focuses on how teachers and schools working with parents and communities can build communal, civically engaged, anti-racist, anti-homophobic, and anti-sexist educational, equitable classrooms. For her work in the field, in 2016, Dr. Love was named the Nasir Jones Hip Hop Fellow at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University. She is also the creator of the Hip Hop civics curriculum: GET FREE. Dr. Love is one of the founding board members of The Kindezi School, an innovative school focused on small classrooms and art-based education. Finally, she is the author of Hip Hop's Li'l Sistas Speak: Negotiating Hip Hop Identities and Politics in the New South. Her work has appeared in numerous books and journals, including the English Journal, Urban Education, The Urban Review, and Journal of LGBT Youth. In 2017, Dr. Love edited a special issue of the Journal of Lesbian Studies focused on the identities, gender performances, and pedagogical practices of Black and Brown lesbian educators. She is currently working on her second book, We Want To Do More Than Survive: A Pedagogy of Mattering.

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