Relational Leadership and Learning
for Hope-full and Sustainable Futures
International Dialogue 2013
3-5 October 2013 Santa Fe, New Mexico

Hosts and Inspirators

Hosts

Dr George Otero
Director
Center for Relational Learning
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Weblink: http://relationalearning.com/

As an international educational consultant, George has worked extensively with students, teachers, administrators, community leaders, and policy makers in the public and private sectors of Australia, England, Canada and the United States offering expertise in the areas of relational learning, community schools, leadership development, student engagement, rural revitalization, and family, school and community partnerships.

Dr Otero has created a strategy for revitalizing rural communities in New Mexico. This School-Led Community Revitalization Initiative is an exciting and comprehensive school-based initiative intended to provide New Mexico’s rural school districts the process, resources and leadership needed to lead social, economic and environmental revitalization within their communities.

As a strong proponent of community schools, Dr Otero has conducted Better Together Conferences that address critical issues for educational and community leaders, such as educational leadership in the community, developing effective relationships and building social capital.

Associate Professor David Giles
Dean
School of Education
Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia
Weblink: http://www.flinders.edu.au/people/david.giles

David has a particular interest in hermeneutic phenomenology and appreciative inquiry research methodologies as vehicles for exploring the experiential, relational and phenomenological nature of education and educational leadership.

Current individual and collaborative research projects include exploring strengths-based initiatives in primary schooling, alternative pedagogical approaches in the educational leadership: starting from the phenomenon of leadership, case study of organizational re-culturing within a university department, appreciatively appraising the transformative effects of a philosophy course in an ECE program, getting a ‘feel’ for an organisation’s culture: enabling educational leaders with a qualitative questionnaire, and Principal’s professional learning. David co-authored the book “Reconstructing a relational approach to educational leadership and management”.

Prior to being awarded the Sidney Myer Chair of Rural Education and Communities at Flinders University, John was a teacher, a principal of two schools in South Australia—Ceduna Area School and The Heights School (both reception to year 12, one rural, one metropolitan), Associate Director of the Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia, an Executive Director in the South Australian Department of Education and Children’s Services and a Chief of Staff to a State Minister for Education and Children’s Services. He has also worked in educational facilities, was a project officer with the Australian School’s Commission Choice and Diversity in Education initiative and has been a Fulbright Scholar.

John’s research interests are predominantly in the areas of leadership, management and policy with a particular focus on rural and remote contexts. John’s research orientation is towards framing rural and remote education in non-deficit ways and innovative/integrated policies and operations for sustainability.

John is currently researching educational leaders in rural, regional and remote contexts; the implementation of national curriculum in rural, regional and remote schools; an extended rural professional placement program; rural youth, rural communities, education and sustainability.
Dr Veronica C. Garcia is the Executive Director for New Mexico Voices for Children, a 501(c)(3) committed to championing public policies that improve the status and well-being of New Mexico’s children, families, and communities in the areas of health, education, and economic security through credible research and effective advocacy.

Before NM Voices for Children, Dr. Garcia was the President & CEO of Comprehensive Consulting Services, LLC. Dr Garcia served as Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer at Hispanic Information and Telecommunications Network, Inc., where she managed a $35 million federal Ready to Learn Early Education Innovation grant. She served as Cabinet Secretary of Education for the State of New Mexico from 2003 to 2010, during which time she worked with the Governor to address the unique needs of New Mexico students through the statewide initiative, Making Schools Work. She implemented a reform agenda targeting academic rigor and accountability, closing the achievement gap, school readiness, quality teachers, parent and community involvement, 21st century classrooms and college and workforce readiness. As Secretary of Education, Dr Garcia was the Chief Educational Officer charged with oversight of all 89 New Mexico school districts, 36,000 employees of the public schools, and an annual operating budget of over $2 billion dollars. Along with advocating for the passage of the New Mexico’s Pre-K Act, Secretary Garcia pushed for funding for programs like school-based health clinics, breakfast in the schools, elementary physical education, and extended school year programs like Kindergarten Plus. She also advocated for passage of the Hispanic Education Act.

She has been an educator and child advocate in New Mexico for 40 years. Dr Garcia has experience as a Teacher, Principal and Superintendent. Upon her (first) retirement, Dr Garcia assumed the position of an Executive Director for NMCSA. She serves on numerous statewide boards and has served and continues to serve on national boards impacting the health, education, and economic well-being of children, including advising Secretaries of Education Spelling and Duncan. She earned her Doctorate in Educational Leadership in 2003. She has received numerous awards and recognition including the National Governors Association Award for Distinguished Service to state Government, the Lifetime Achievement award from Hispanic Magazine and the Lifetime Achievement Award from NM PTA, Excellence in Education Award from the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce President’s Award, and is listed as the Top Ten Hispanic Women in New Mexico by the New Mexico Legislature. Dr Garcia has delivered hundreds of state and national presentations and continues to be a much sought after keynote speaker.
Dr Maggie Farrar
Interim Chief Executive
National College of School Leadership
United Kingdom
Weblink: http://www.education.gov.uk/nationalcollege/

Maggie’s love of teaching and working with young people started in West Africa where she taught in a large secondary school in Northern Ghana. She then moved to London to work as a teacher and school leader where she worked with children for whom English was a second language and developed partnership projects focused on neighbourhood renewal.

She then moved to Birmingham to work with Tim Brighouse where she set up the University of the First Age, a national charity which develops extended learning experiences for young people in school and community settings and trains school, community, family members and young people to be tutors and mentors.

Since May 2003 Maggie worked at the National College for School Leadership (NCSL) where she developed and led the community leadership strategy, and was also responsible for leadership development in schools and early years setting, and for research and policy. She took over as interim Chief Executive of the NCSL in November 2012. Maggie has more recently been the strategic lead for a system reform and leadership development programme in India working with the Indian and British Government and the British Council. Maggie remains convinced of the power of relationships in transforming school systems and the importance of leadership in creating sustainable, energising and empowering learning communities.

She is the author, with John West Burnham and George Otero, of “Schools and communities – working together to transform children’s lives”.
Friday, 4 October 2013
Day 2 Hope: A Way of Becoming Fully Human

Inspirator

Professor Jonathan Lear
John U. Nef Distinguished Service Professor
Committee on Social Thought in the Department of Philosophy
The University of Chicago
Weblink: http://philosophy.uchicago.edu/faculty/lear.html

Jonathan Lear is the John U. Nef Distinguished Service Professor at the Committee on Social Thought and in the Department of Philosophy. He trained in Philosophy at Cambridge University and The Rockefeller University where he received his Ph.D. in 1978. He works primarily on philosophical conceptions of the human psyche from Socrates to the present. He also trained as a psychoanalyst at the Western New England Institute for Psychoanalysis.


Inspirator

Professor Pedro Noguera
Peter L. Agnew Professor of Education
New York University
Weblink: http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/faculty_bios/view/Pedro_Noguera

Pedro Noguera is the Peter L. Agnew Professor of Education at New York University. He holds tenured faculty appointments in the departments of Teaching and Learning and Humanities and Social Sciences at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Development at NYU. He is also the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Center for Urban Education and the co-Director of the Institute for the Study of Globalization and Education in Metropolitan Settings (IGEMS).

Dr Noguera is the author of seven books and over 150 articles and monographs. His most recent books are “Creating the Opportunity to Learn” with A. Wade Boykin (ASCD, 2011) and “Invisible No More: Understanding and Responding to the Disenfranchisement of Latino Males” with A. Hurtado and E. Fergus (Routledge, 2011). Dr. Noguera appears as a regular commentator on educational issues on CNN, National Public Radio, and other national news outlets. From 2009 - 2012 he served as a Trustee for the State University of New York (SUNY) as an appointee of the Governor. He serves on the boards of numerous national and local organizations including the Economic Policy Institute, the Young Women’s Leadership Institute, The After School Corporation and The Nation Magazine.
Gregory Cajete is a Native American educator whose work is dedicated to honoring the foundations of indigenous knowledge in education. Dr Cajete is a Tewa Indian from Santa Clara Pueblo, New Mexico. He has served as a New Mexico Humanities scholar in ethno botany of Northern New Mexico and as a member of the New Mexico Arts Commission. Currently, he is Director of Native American Studies and an Associate Professor in the Division of Language, Literacy and Socio-cultural Studies in the College of Education at the University of New Mexico.

Dr Cajete has received several fellowships and academic distinctions, including the American Indian Graduate Fellowship from the US-DOE Office of Indian Education (1977-78); the D’arcy McNickle Fellowship in American Indian History from the Newberry Library, Chicago, IL (1984-85); and the Katrin Lamon Fellowship in American Indian Art and Education (1985-1986) from the School of American Research in Santa Fe, NM.

Dr Cajete also designs culturally-responsive curricula geared to the special needs and learning styles of Native American students. These curricula are based upon Native American understanding of the “nature of nature” and utilizes this foundation to develop an understanding of the science and artistic thought process as expressed in Indigenous perspectives of the natural world.