MIMAUE Spring 2004 Colloquium

Improving Minority Achievement in Academic Subjects: Reading, Writing, and Social Studies

The Maryland Institute for Minority Achievement and Urban Education (MIMAUE) and the Department of Curriculum and Instruction presents the MIMAUE Spring 2004 Colloquium. This colloquium will feature four outstanding curriculum and instruction researchers discussing their recent research projects and programs. Implications will be drawn from this research to the most effective methods of teaching to ensure high achievement. STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF AND MEMBERS OF THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND.

March 3, 2004

Dr. Jennifer Turner

“\[I just see children, not color.\]”: Exploring the Problems and Possibilities of Culturally Relevant Literacy Instruction for European American Elementary Teachers

Culturally relevant instruction has become a hot topic in literacy education because it has the potential to increase the literacy achievement and academic success of culturally diverse students. While there is growing consensus around what culturally relevant instruction is and what it looks like, we still do not know how to prepare teachers, particularly those from European American backgrounds, to transform their instruction in culturally appropriate ways. As a result, many European American teachers learn “on the job,” and encounter tremendous dilemmas and conflicts as they attempt to become more responsive to culturally diverse students. Drawing upon qualitative case study research conducted with two European American third grade teachers, this presentation will describe the problems and possibilities of crafting culturally relevant literacy instruction, and will discuss implications for teacher education.

Dr. Jennifer Danridge Turner is an Assistant Professor in Reading Education at the University of Maryland, College Park. Turner recently earned her doctorate from Michigan State University in Educational Psychology with a specialization in Literacy. At MSU, she worked as a graduate student on several qualitative projects around diversity-related issues in literacy teaching and learning at the Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement (CIERA). Her work on culturally relevant literacy instruction in elementary classrooms earned her a Spencer/MSU Research Training Grant Fellowship, and an AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship. Turner’s research interests center on multicultural issues in elementary literacy education and in teacher education, and she is currently developing a two-year professional development initiative on culturally responsive instruction for beginning reading teachers in a culturally diverse elementary school.

The Colloquium will be held in Room 0113, Cole Student Activities Building, University of Maryland, College Park.

Sessions begin at 4:00 PM and end at 6:00 PM

Refreshments will be provided by the College of Education Outreach Office

For further information, please visit www.education.umd.edu/MIMAUE or call Dr. Martin L. Johnson, MIMAUE Director at 301-405-0246