Kufundisha Institute: Teaching the African American Sociohistorical Experience

Culturally responsive teaching can dramatically improve learning outcomes for African American students. A central aspect of this type of teaching is developing an understanding of and appreciation for the social, cultural, historical and psychological experiences of students. Because the achievement gap between African Americans and their counterparts has been persistent, and is now widening in some cases, there is a demand and need for teachers who are able to attend to diverse student cultures. Participating in the Summer Institute will provide teachers with a well-rounded skill set to raise the achievement levels of all students.

Kufundisha ['to teach'—KiSwahili] Institute provides teachers the orientation needed to understand the complexities of educating racially and ethnically diverse classrooms by preparing teachers with methods and techniques to fuse African American culture into their pedagogy. Kufundisha is—

A Two-Week Summer Teachers' Institute, July 9-20, 2007, offered by the African American Studies & Research Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The Summer Institute provides an intensive immersion program of readings, lectures, films, and discussion that critically surveys the Black experience through the disciplines of history, social science, literature, educational and counseling psychology, library science, media and cultural studies.

Summer Institute Features & Highlights

- Two-week intensive immersion program of readings, lectures, films, and discussions that critically survey the Black experience.
- African-American history, from slavery in colonial America to the Civil Rights Movement in post-war America.
- African American Pride & Empowerment, from the 1950s to the Present.
- African American narratives, fiction, poetry, and drama from slavery to today.
- Techniques for incorporating African American film and digital media in the classroom.
- Week-end trip to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Special Keynote Speakers on Race, Racism and Public Education.
- Earn up to 80 CPDU credits.

AASRP members have conducted three previous institutes. Funding for past institutes and conferences was provided by the Illinois Humanities Council, the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Council of Black Studies, the Illinois General Assembly, and the UIUC Office of the Provost.

The mission of the African American Studies & Research Program (AASRP) is to enrich the lives of individuals and to transform society through the creation of new knowledge about the experiences, perspectives, and interests of African-descended peoples; to promote excellence in teaching and research in order to produce a new generation of leadership that is grounded in Black Studies and committed to public engagement that meets the challenges of a diverse democratic society; and to foster national discourse that stimulates public policies aimed at achieving social justice.

Over the past five years, AASRP has grown to a core faculty of twenty-two scholars & researchers, making it uniquely suited to offer public school educators a summer institute concentration in how to infuse Black Studies content and perspectives into their pedagogy.

As the largest core of African American faculty, at the largest research-one institution in Illinois, AASRP comprises the most diverse and well-rounded group of African American scholars in the State, who are prepared to offer a broad content-based Institute to teachers seeking to better incorporate African American perspectives into their curriculum.
Registration
Public school teachers may register on-line at www.aasrp.uiuc.edu, or mail registration forms to the African American Studies & Research Program, 1201 W. Nevada St., MC-143, Urbana, IL 61801.

Deadlines
Early registration to receive course materials by mail: June 1, 2007. Registration deadline: June 22, 2007.

Housing & Parking
Housing is available for Summer Institute participants at Busey-Evans Hall on the UIUC campus. Parking is provided by the Summer Institute.

Fees
The fee for June 1 early registration is $400. The fee for June 22 registration is $450. The fees only partially cover the cost of the many resources provided to Summer Institute participants. They include select meals, parking, special events, and the weekend trip to National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati, Ohio.

For more information
Contact: Lou Turner, 217/333-7781; email: loturner@uiuc.edu.

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Bring the African American experience into your classroom and…
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