

GIFTED EDUCATION NEWS

November 2015, Gifted Education Coordinators and Communities

Featured Article Resource:

From

Where Are the Gifted Minorities? By Ingrid Wickelgren

November 2, 2012, Guest blog by Frank C. Worrell, Paula Olszewski-Kubilius and Rena F. Subotnik

For more than a quarter century, critics have faulted gifted education programs for catering to kids from advantaged backgrounds. These programs do, after all, typically enroll outsized numbers of European American and Asian American students hailing from relatively well-off homes. Members of other ethnic groups, meanwhile, tend to be underrepresented, as judged by the percentage of these students in a school district relative to that in its gifted program. In a study based on data from the 2006 Elementary and Secondary School Civil Rights Survey, for example, education researcher Donna Y. Ford at Vanderbilt University and her colleagues found that African American students are underrepresented in gifted programs by about 51 percent and Hispanic students by about 42 percent, relative to their proportion in the nation's schools.

Of course, if minority students are systematically denied the benefits of such programs—a more sophisticated curriculum, motivated peers and, in some cases, specially trained teachers—gifted education serves to increase the gap between them and kids who are already proficient and enjoy access to resources. Correcting this problem requires trying to get at the roots of this discrepancy, which run far deeper than racism or bias in the selection process. Important social forces work against overall academic achievement in some races and cultures, and for it in others. The result is that fewer kids from poor families or of certain ethnicities end up qualifying for advanced programs....

For the rest of the article, see: <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/streams-of-consciousness/where-are-the-gifted-minorities/>

There is a difference between talented people and gifted people. Talented people are good AT something; Gifted people ARE that something.

Steve Maraboli

Upcoming events:

FDOE Gifted Webinars:

Dec. 1, 10 a.m., Self-regulation and success, with guest speaker Dr. Richard Cash.

January 7, 3 p.m., Twice Exceptional Student issues and meeting their needs, with guest speaker Dr. Kristy Mall.

For info on how to join the webinars, email Kathleen.Casper@fldoe.org



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Highlights from the Districts:



Artwork created by gifted students in Rachel St. Pierre's fourth-grade push-in class at Midway Elementary in Sanford, Florida.



Canine Commandos helping train a dog at the shelter in Brevard County, Florida

QUESTION BANK:

I would like to know what other counties are doing to increase public relations regarding gifted education program options, the needs of gifted students, etc. with their communities.

Please send answers to Kathleen.Casper@fldoe.org with a subject of "Question Bank Answer." I will share them with the district that submitted the question. Thank you!

Seminole County is moving and shaking!

Not only did the Seminole County School District recently receive a \$2.4 million Javits grant for gifted education, but they are doing some other amazing things to promote gifted education and support for high achieving students too!

They use a district-wide model of support for talent development., as well as have a gifted initiative to provide endorsement courses at no charge to any teacher in the district. Seminole County is currently on its fifth cohort of 120 teachers who are working towards their endorsement just since 2013. Courses are currently being provided through Level 7 Learning with Seminole County Schools paying all course expenses. Seminole County School District is currently developing its own online modules to continue offering courses to its teachers.

When I visited Seminole County Schools' gifted and ESE team in October, we talked about what made their district successful in terms of being able to provide so much gifted support for their students. It really seems to come down to having a great relationship with a superintendent who is supportive and a school board that believes in the mission of serving and identifying their gifted students, as well as a wonderful gifted team who is working hard to support all of their students.

Brevard County meets the social emotional needs of students with canine friends.

Virginia Hamilton, a teacher at Indialantic Elementary School in Brevard County, is the founder and supervisor/coordinator for Canine Commandos, a nonprofit organization that hooks children up with shelter animals. The children visit the shelter on a regular basis to train dogs so that they are more socialized and thereby, are more adoptable. The students also interact with the cats and are working closely with each other on social emotional skill-building while they support the animals. This wonderful way to link students with community service is also helping the students learn that the Sheriff department is doing good things, as the Sheriff now operates the shelter.

The students interact with each other and show a lot of empathy and compassion for each other and towards the dogs (some of the dogs were not all sure they wanted to do the training) and the students express pride in the way they help the animals and their community by the work that they do each month.