

NOTES FROM JEFFREY DUNCAN-ANDRADE'S PRESENTATION AT

CALADE on SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010

Based on research conducted by Dr. Andrade, the following are overriding characteristics of effective teachers albeit delivered in individualized ways:

1. Critically Conscious Purpose: All of the superior teachers in the study felt that their students were the ones who were going to change the world. Some students in the class might be the most difficult in terms of being "rule breakers," but the idea that it could be any one student within the class who might change the world compelled these teachers to reach out to every last student with the idea that it might be that particular student who would change society.
2. Heightened Sense of Duty: These teachers felt it was their duty to be continually striving toward improvement. On that basis, all created a frequent and genuine feedback loop from their students to improve curriculum delivery.
3. Preparation: All of the superior teachers observed in this study spent time in preparing their lessons seeking to make their curriculum more relevant and to deliver the lessons with a passion for learning that is contagious.
4. Socratic Sensibility: All of the superior teachers in this study expressed a keen willingness to engage in the pain of examining their teaching practices critically being especially open to critique but not having such critique create self doubt.
5. Trust: All of the excellent teachers sought to build two-way trust, one, by believing in their students and two, by having students believe in their teaching.

Recommended reading:

The Miseducation of the Negro by Carter Woodson

Other People's Children by Lisa Delpit

Conclusion:

Before students can successfully learn, the following three preconditions must be met:

- a. They must have a positive self-identity;
- b. They must have a keen sense of purpose; and
- c. They must have hope that they'll be able to succeed.

A fourth helpful condition is:

- d. They should have a sense of critical awareness.