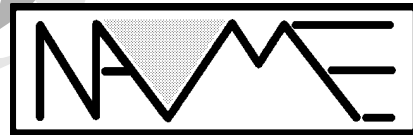


Voices



A newsletter published by The Maryland Multicultural Coalition,
State Chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education



Vol. XVII, No. 5

July 2012

From the President

by Deborah Misiag,
MMC/NAME President

As we come to the close of another school year, it is important to reflect on the last year and think about things that we might do next year. This past year, the Maryland Multicultural Coalition has held numerous evening events co-sponsored with the Maryland State Education Association. We have held another successful annual conference, this year in Carroll County. We had several members attend the national conference of NAME in Chicago, who also were presenters at the conference.

In July we will be holding our Executive Board Retreat. If you would like to provide input into our plans for next year, please send it to me, via email at dmisiag@yahoo.com by July 8th. If you are interested in joining any of our committees, or getting more involved with the organization, please let me know that also.

We have received an updated membership list from the National Association for Multicultural Education. More than

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Timothy Johnson recipient of 2012 Epstein Award

A lifetime of service in the areas of law, civil rights, race relations and education recommended Timothy J. Johnson for the 2012 Jack Epstein Award. The award is presented each year to a member of the community who has demonstrated exemplary commitment to furthering education that is multicultural in the state of Maryland.

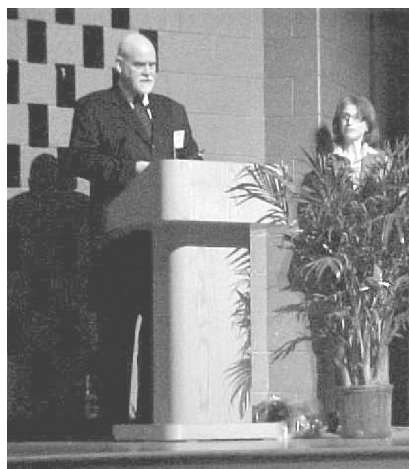
Tim Johnson's work related to multicultural understanding is exemplified by his leadership for thirty-five years in the U.S. Department of Justice, particularly through the Community Relations Service as a federal mediator and facilitator of the SPIRIT (Students Problem Identification and Resolution of Issues Together) process. SPIRIT is a program implemented in schools to address racial tensions and has been used effectively in hundreds of sites in the Mid-Atlantic region and in many schools in Maryland.

Since retiring in 2009, Tim was elected co-chair of the statewide Coalition Opposed to Violence and Extremism (COVE), an organization composed of representatives of human rights commissions, law enforcement, community and ethnic advocacy organizations and education (including MMC). He founded and directs Positive Solutions Unlimited, a problem-solving consultant organization. Tim is a member of the Howard County Human Rights Commission and

a founding member of the Circle of Restorative Initiatives for Maryland.

In recognition of his lifelong commitment and service to furthering social justice and the elimination of racism and discrimination in society, we congratulate Tim Johnson on his selection as the 2012 Jack Epstein Award recipient.

— Bonnie Brownell



Mr. Timothy Johnson, winner of the Jack Epstein Award for 2012

Carroll County Public Schools hosted 2012 Statewide Conference

On April 28, 2012, over 300 educators visited Winters Mill High School in Carroll County for the Maryland Multicultural Coalition Statewide Spring Conference. The theme of the conference, Multiculturalism: The Road Less Traveled was inspired by the poem written by Robert Frost. Carroll County's planning team was led by Patricia Levrony, Supervisor of Equity and Community Outreach. In total, over 40 people in the county helped plan the conference.

Mrs. Levrony stated that she wanted to have a different approach to the spring conference by having a student conference within the total conference. Also, instead of having the keynote speaker in the morning, the keynote speaker was scheduled after lunch. Michelle Shearer, 2011 National Teacher of the Year was the keynote speaker. Mrs. Shearer gave an outstanding presentation on STEM and the relationship to multicultural education. She stated that she

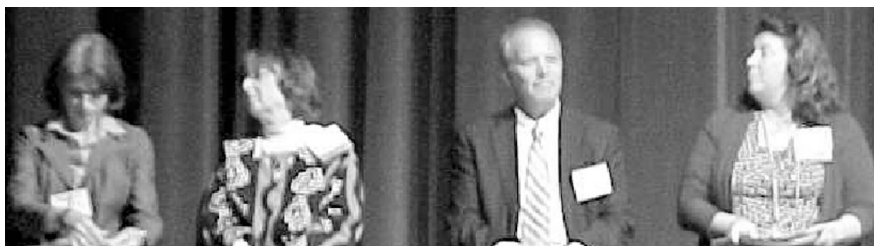


Francis Scott Key's Dance Troupe

she wants more girls, deaf students, and students of color to enroll in STEM courses. Mrs. Shearer wants to inspire those students to pursue careers in STEM areas.

The conference featured well-known national facilitators such as Dr. Paul Gorski, EdChange; David Miller, Urban Leadership Institute; Dr. Lisa Williams, Baltimore County Public Schools; and Dr. Omekongo Dibinga, UpStander International. These facilitators really impacted the conference with their thought-provoking sessions. Many conference goers stated that all of the sessions were of high quality.

Carroll County Public Schools students also shone that day.



On the stage: Mrs. Bonnie Brownell, Vice President of MMC/NAME, Mrs. Linda Shevitz, Director of Equity, MSDE, Mr. Stephen Guthrie, Superintendent of Carroll County Public Schools, and Ms. Debbie Misiag, President of MMC/NAME.

Carly Anderson singing the National Anthem.



There was entertainment by Spring Garden Elementary's choir who sang Pop Songs of the 60's and 70's. William Winchester Elementary's choir sang songs from around the world. Robert Moton Elementary's Drummers performed African Drum music during lunch. The entertainment ended with Francis Scott Key's Dance Troupe performing various dances to show their versatility.

It was great to have strong support from the ETMA Net-

Michelle Shearer, 2011 National Teacher of the Year delivering keynote address.



work. Dr. Gwen Handy, Dorchester County, Dr. JudyLynn Mitchell, Wicomico County, and Dr. Cheryl Johnson, Calvert County, brought bus loads of people to the spring conference.

Top leadership from various counties also participated in the conference including Carroll County's Superintendent Mr. Stephen Guthrie and Dorchester County's Superintendent Dr. Henry Wagner.

Many people e-mailed Pat telling her how much they learned from the conference. Yes, it was a great day!

— Pat Levrony, Conference Chair

Women's role in American history:

How to tell the stories

The Maryland Women's Heritage Center in Baltimore was selected as the site during Women's History Month to hold a National Town Hall discussion — Women's Role in American History: How to Tell the Stories. The meeting was convened by U. S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, who is promoting efforts to preserve and highlight the diverse accomplishments of American women. The goal is to increase the part that the National Park Service and other divisions of the Department of the Interior play in honoring women's contributions. It was discussed in a strategy meeting before the Town Hall with representatives of other national organizations such as the Smithsonian American History Museum Division, the Girl Scouts of America, the League of Women Voters, the National Association for Historic Women's Trails, etc. The Town Hall included topics raised by community and the public about addressing the under-representation of women's history in many venues.

The Town Hall discussion at the Maryland Women's Heritage Center as part of Interior's ongoing efforts to capture and tell a more inclusive story of America was attended by Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, First Lady of Maryland Judge Katie O'Malley, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks Rachel Jacobson, and more than 60 leaders in the women's history and heritage movement. The Town Hall focused on efforts to preserve and highlight the many contributions of women throughout American history. Former Maryland state Senator Michael Mitchell raised the work commemorated at the historic Maryland home of his family's NAACP leader and civil rights icon Lillie Carroll Jackson, and her daughter and his Mother Juanita Jackson Mitchell. He and others urged creating a national historic site in Maryland honoring these women in a museum that is being developed.

Below is a link to a 2-minute Department of the Interior's YouTube video posted about the eTown Hall and its message.

Secretary Salazar Hosts Town Hall on Women's History
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_i8Nn9EBbE&feature=youtu.be_gdata>

03/30/2012 11:49 AM EDT

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Secretary Salazar Hosts Town Hall on Women's History
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For more information about the Heritage Center and its programs, please contact Program Chair, Linda Shevitz
lshevitz@msde.state.md.us or visit the website at www.mdwomensheritagecenter.org.

— Linda Shevitz

President...

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twenty members that we had the previous year are not on the current listing. If you have not renewed your membership, we urge you to do so by going to NAMEOR.org and complete a membership form on line. Be sure to note the state chapter as Maryland. We even have some members from Washington, DC; Delaware; and other nearby states, due to our close proximity.

Ways to remember when your membership is due for renewal:

- ☐ Mark a month on your calendar each year to renew your membership. I always remember to register the month of the annual conference. NAME has informed us that they send out an email reminder regarding membership renewal; however, if you have changed your email they cannot remind you. Also, if you change your email MMC cannot locate you to send *Voices*, ballots for elections and other communications.

- ☐ One way to know if your

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Voices
The newsletter of the
**MARYLAND
MULTICULTURAL COALITION**

Deborah Misiag
President

Tom Owen
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For questions or suggestions,
or to submit articles,
call 410-272-1085, or email
towen01@comcast.net

NEW PROPOSED COMAR REGULATIONS:

The Key to Reducing Disproportionality

Students of color—specifically African-American males and Latino males—have been over-represented in the category of suspensions and expulsions nationwide for over three decades. Similarly, students with disabilities have also been disproportionately represented in suspension and expulsion categories. The causes of such disproportionate rates have been debated among education professionals over the years as well. Contributory factors cited have included the lack of professional development regarding behavior strategies, more culturally sensitive coursework in teacher training programs, increased administrator accountability, and the implementation of more student intervention programs, etc. While the discussion has continued over the years, the issue of disproportionality has remained a prevalent issue in school systems nationwide. In fact, many education experts have identified these suspension rates a part of the “school to prison” pipeline that leads a considerable number of former students to a life of crime and ultimately imprisonment.

The State of Maryland is attempting to address issues of disproportionate suspension and expulsion rates by making significant changes to the Code of Maryland Regulations (“COMAR”). The most noticeable proposed changes involve the implementation of “Minimum Education Services” as well as a mandate requiring the elimination of disproportionality. More specifically, the relevant proposed sections of COMAR require that “each student out of school who is not placed in an alternative education program shall receive daily homework assignments from each which shall be reviewed and corrected by teachers on a weekly basis and returned to the student.” Moreover, if a school’s discipline process is identi-

fied as having a disproportionate impact on minority or special education students, the school system will be required to “prepare and present to the State Board a plan to reduce the disproportionate impact within one year and eliminate it within three years.” The proposed regulations do not indicate clearly whether those schools required to develop plans which fail to eliminate disproportionality will face sanctions, corrective actions or any other penalty.

The changes to COMAR have not been finalized; therefore, additional changes may be forthcoming. Thus, while it is unclear which version of the regulation will remain, it is clear that the educational and life experiences of African American students, Latino students and students with disabilities will continue to be impacted by this systemic issue. Will the provision of “minimum education services” solve this persisting issue? Is it bias or behavior that needs to change? Will a mandate solve the problem? What is your vote? Continue the discussion, voice your opinion and encourage change...for the benefit of your students.

Sharon F. Gooding, M.Ed., is the President and CEO of It's LifeTime, LLC. Her company provides a life skills curriculum that teaches young people the critical thinking skills to help them make better life decisions. It's LifeTime also provides a series of workshops to school districts and other youth programs. To find out more about It's Life/Time!, please visit www.itslifetime.com

President...

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membership is still current is by checking to see if you are still receiving the NAME publication called *Multicultural Perspectives*. If you have not received one in the last six months, then most likely your membership has lapsed. We will be letting you know if your name no longer appears on the updated membership list.

During the summer we will be working on updating the membership list and we will be letting you know if your membership has lapsed by doing the following:

- ☐ Sending letters to you at the address we have on file.

- ☐ Asking all members to update their address, phone, organization and email addresses.
- ☐ Having your current information will enable MMC to help you get the most out of your membership.

We hope that you will enjoy the summer months. This is a time to reflect, renew and to enjoy time with family and friends. Have a wonderful summer!

— Debbie Misiag

We look forward to making this year our best year yet. Happy 2012. ☐

Time for a Change

For most of the past twenty years (with a brief hiatus in the mid-nineties), it has been my pleasure and my honor to support the work of the Maryland Multicultural Coalition by editing our newsletter, *Voices*. Not only has this given me an opportunity to keep in close contact with the work of our organization; it has also been a good way to observe the growth of MMC, in depth of understanding and in the commitment of so many fine educators to the goal of multicultural education. This job has been a great opportunity to rub elbows with so many great educators all across the state of Maryland and from many states of our country.

Now it is time to turn the reins over to another editor. While we are not sure who that person is just yet, I am confident that the new editor will produce a fresh new version of *Voices* and make it even more informative and attractive than ever. My thanks to all our faithful contributors over these twenty years, for it is they who have made our newsletter as good as it is.

And a special thanks to our publisher, John Case, who makes the paper look so attractive!

See you at the next conference!

— Tom

TITLE IX at 40 —

In June, 1972, Congress passed the Title IX Law of the Education Amendments of 1972. This year Title IX is celebrating the 40th anniversary of many changes brought about by this civil rights law. Watch the next issue of *Voices* to learn more about Title IX and its impact. If you would like to share any personal stories, please submit them by July 12, 2012, to Linda Shevitz, Maryland Title IX Coordinator, at lshevitz@msde.state.md.us.

TITLE IX --- No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied, the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal Financial assistance...