

The 4th Annual Stakeholders' Summit

Closing Connecticut's Achievement Gaps: *Overidentification and Disproportion in Special Education*



Save the Date

Thursday, April 27, 2006
Marriott Hotel
Trumbull, CT

The 4th Annual Summit
on
Closing Connecticut's
Achievement Gaps:
Overidentification &
Disproportion
in Special Education

Show Up... Tell Your Truth...
Let It All Out... Make It Happen...

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu, Educational Consultant
African American Images Inc., Chicago, IL

(Registration and agenda will be forwarded in late March.)



What about the Health Gap?

Childhood Lead Poisoning and Its Impact on Students' Achievement

**Statewide Conference Open Space
and Concurrent Session
Presentations on Childhood lead
poisoning**

The Connecticut State Department of Public Health, University of Connecticut, the Foundation for Educational Advancement, Inc. and the New Britain Public Schools' Youth Leadership Lead Program provided a statewide educational conference session on Childhood Lead Poisoning for educators from 26 Connecticut school districts.

Environmental health factors such as childhood lead poisoning can disproportionately impact the academic success of students.

How can we ensure that these students receive the appropriate services to become academically successful? Since childhood lead poisoning is entirely preventable, what can be done to prevent it?

Afternoon Concurrent Session

1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

What About the Health Gap? Childhood Lead Poisoning and Its Impact on Students' Achievement

- **Dr. Vivian Cross**, Commissioner, CT Advisory Commission on Multicultural Health and Executive Director of the Foundation for Educational Advancement, Inc.
- **Lauren Main**, Child Advocate
- **Ana Chambers**, Director, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, CT Department of Public Health
- **Mary-Margaret Gaudio**, Educator, Healthy Environments for Children Initiative, UCONN
- **Thomas Mendito**, Science & Technology Director, Youth Leadership Childhood Lead Project, New Britain Public Schools

Both an Open Technology Session and This informational session will provide participants with foundational concepts about the link between childhood lead poisoning and cognitive performance. Participants will be able to dialogue with experts about the impact this silent but devastating intruder can have on the lives of many students. The Family Impact and a Student Youth Leadership Lead Awareness and Prevention Project will be discussed.

4th Annual Connecticut Statewide Stakeholders' Conference

April 27, 2006

What About the Health Gap? Childhood Lead Poisoning and Its Impact on Students' Achievement

Brief Biography of Presenters:

Vivian Cross, B.S., M.S., Ed.D.

Dr. Vivian Cross is a Commissioner on the Connecticut Advisory Commission of Multicultural Health and Executive Director of the Foundation for Educational Advancement. Dr. Cross' more than thirty years of professional experiences include serving as an Educational Consultant, Coordinator of Student Services, University Assistant Professor, Public School District Special Education Coordinator and Supervisor, Professional Developer, Coordinator of Strategic Planning and School Improvement, Program and Curriculum Developer, and Psycho-educational Diagnostician. She has experience with student populations that range from Preschool (Early Childhood) through High School and University levels.

Lauren Main

Mrs. Main is a child advocate who has testified at the Connecticut State Legislative Roundtable Forum for the Eradication of Childhood Lead Poisoning and before the Select Committee on Children at the Connecticut State Legislature.

Ana Chambers, B.A., B.S., MPH, CHES

Mrs. Chambers is the Health Education Coordinator of the Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Program (LPPCP) for the Connecticut State Department of Public Health. She also serves on the New England Lead Coordinating Committee as a representative of the State of CT Department of Public Health. Ana is a nationally certified health education specialist with professional experience as a Community and Statewide Health Educator, Wellness Instructor and Exercise Specialist.

Mary-Margaret Gaudio, B.A., M.A.

Mary-Margaret Gaudio is a Cooperative Extension Educator and the Director & Co-founder of the Healthy Environments for Children Initiative at the University of Connecticut Center for Applied Research. Mrs. Gaudio also serves on the New England Lead Coordinating Committee as a representative of the University of Connecticut and as a faculty member in the Department of Extension, University of Connecticut, Hartford County Extension Center, West Hartford, CT.

Thomas M. Menditto, B.S., M.S. Sixth-Year Degree & Doctoral Study in Environmental Education

Mr. Menditto is the District Coordinator of Science, Technology and Applied Education for the Consolidated School District of New Britain and the Director of the New Britain Youth Leadership Program (NBYLP) study on possible exposure to lead and lead poisoning prevention within the Walnut Hill National Historic Landmark District neighborhood. Thomas Menditto has had thirty-two years of experience implementing state-of-the-art science, technology, career and technical education programs in CT public schools.