

WORKING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH DESCRIPTIVE INQUIRY

A Working Conference Planned and Sponsored by
The Center for Urban Educators
and
the John P. McGrath Fund
Keynote Speaker
Carol D. Lee

Culture, Literacy and Learning

Saturday, May 2, 2009 • 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Long Island University • Brooklyn Campus
Zeckendorf Health Sciences Center



Carol D. Lee is Professor of Education and Social Policy in the Learning Sciences Program at Northwestern University. She is President-Elect of the American Educational Research Association (2008-2009), a member of the National Academy of Education, and a former fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. Professor Lee is the author of three books including the most recent "Culture, Literacy and Learning: Taking Bloom in the Midst of the Whirlwind" and co-editor of "Vygotskian Perspectives on Literacy Research," along with numerous other scholarly publications. Her research focuses on ecological influences on learning and development, including the Cultural Modeling Framework for the design of instruction that scaffolds knowledge constructed from youth's everyday experience to support discipline specific learning. She is a co-founder of four schools in Chicago, including three charter schools, serving as chairman of the Board of Directors of the Betty Shabazz International Charter Schools.

SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY



- 9:00 a.m. Registration and breakfast
- 9:45 a.m. Framing Remarks—Cecelia Traugh, dean of LIU's Brooklyn Campus School of Education and director of the Center for Urban Educators
- 10:30 a.m. Working Inquiry Groups
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:45 p.m. Keynote Address – Carol D. Lee

Participants in this conference will be actively involved in inquiry groups with parents, teachers, teacher educators, and students of teaching. We will use Prospect Center's Descriptive Processes to look closely at children, children's works and teachers' works to:

- Find language for the advocacy of children with language differences and other special needs
- Seriously explore issues of power and social justice in teaching and learning
- Learn about inquiry communities in schools exploring issues of standards, inclusion/exclusion in school communities, blurring the line between school and community literacies

The mission of the Center for Urban Educators is the reform of urban teacher education. The vision of teaching and schools guiding CUE's work is one that supports teachers as socially responsible people who are intellectually engaged and act as advocates for children, parents, and their communities. CUE works within the School of Education at Long Island University's Brooklyn Campus and in partnership with New York City public schools.

Descriptive Inquiry as it is practiced in the Center for Urban Educators has its roots in the work of Patricia Carini and the Prospect Center in North Bennington, Vermont. More information is available from CUE or www.prospectcenter.org.

REGISTRATION AND FEES

The fee for this conference is \$20 (Long Island University students are exempted from this charge.) Please return the following form to indicate your plans to attend the Conference.

You can fax your registration to Marita Downes, 718-488-3472 or email it to marita.downes@liu.edu. Then, please send a copy of the form with your check or money order for \$20.00 payable to Long Island University by April 15th. Address it to: Marita Downes, School of Education, Pratt 210, Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus, One University Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11201-5372.

The Zeckendorf Health Sciences Center is located just inside the DeKalb Avenue gate. The building can also be reached by going through the Metcalf Building at the intersection of Flatbush and DeKalb. For directions to the Brooklyn Campus in downtown Brooklyn, please log on to: <http://www.brooklyn.liu.edu/location/directions.html>. For more information please contact Marita Downes at (718)488-1378 or marita.downes@liu.edu.

Conference Registration Form

Name: _____ LIU Student: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Role in education: _____

An important part of this Conference is the working inquiry groups scheduled for the morning. In these groups, you will use collaborative, descriptive inquiry to look closely at children and teaching practice. In order to create these inquiry groups, we need some information about your interests. Please fill out the following so that we can make a good placement for you.

I would prefer to be in an inquiry session focusing on:

- young children (early childhood) children in grades three to six
- adolescents no preference



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