

Institute for the Study of the African American Child (ISAAC)

Progress Report and Plans

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2009

Conferences

The sponsoring of conferences is the initial activity of ISAAC for a number of reasons. They serve the purpose of bringing the community together, identifying people who are interested in becoming members and working with the Mission of ISAAC, creating an income stream, contributing to the intellectual climate of the community, providing training for students, educators and the general public. The inaugural Round Table was attended by the Superintendents of the Ann Arbor Public Schools and the Grand Rapids Public Schools, in addition to teachers and upper level administrators from numerous school districts.

Ms. Rosie Triano, a teacher from Gross Pointe, University of Liggett, an attendee at the Inaugural Round Table, invited Janice Hale to make a presentation to teachers at a Diversity workshop of the Association of Independent Schools of Michigan, December 2008. This is a consortium of private schools such as Cranbrook, Detroit Country Day School, Roeper, University of Liggett. A presentation was given on *Best Practices for African American Children*. This is an example of the way in which holding conferences benefits children. We can improve education for African American children by touching individual teachers who touch thousands of children throughout their careers.

- *Round Table on African American Education at WSU, July 20, 2008.* One hundred 150 attendees. Banquet fundraiser “Throw Down in Motown” featuring the Vandellas, the Contours and DJ Rick Love on July 19, 2008, at the Marriott Hotel Renaissance Center, 150 attendees.
- *Round Table on African American Education at the Annual Meeting of the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI).* Session attended by 65 conferees. Fourteen became Members/Associate Fellows. Presentations by Janice Hale on “**Best Practices for African American Children**” and by Atty. Godfrey Dilliard on “**Preparing to FIGHT: The Lay of the Land; Lessons for FIGHT from the Supreme Court University of Michigan Affirmative Action Case.**” Atty. Dillard engaged in a dialogue with the audience. He will incorporate that feedback in the presentation at the June 20, 2009 Round Table at WSU.

The purpose for presenting at NBCDI is to move from city to city with their conference regionally, publicize the Mission of ISAAC, attract members and funding.

- ***Round Table on African American Education at WSU, July 19-20, 2009.*** A direct mailing targeted 7,124 K-12 schools in Michigan and South Carolina.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings, Kellner Family Professor in Urban Education, University of Wisconsin, Madison, author of *The Dreamkeepers: Successful Teachers of African American Children*.

Banquet Speaker: Dr. Na'im Akbar, Imminent African American Psychologist, former Chair of the Psychology Department at Morehouse College, Dynamic Speaker and author of *Breaking the Chains of Psychological Slavery*. Marriott Hotel, Renaissance Center, Dinner/Dance, DJ Rick Love.

- **Conference on Research Directions (CORD) at the Hilton Oceanfront Resort at Hilton Head, South Carolina, May 3-6, 2009.**

Met with Dr. Gloria Boutte, Dr. Susi Long and Dean of the School of Education at the University of South Carolina to establish co-sponsorship of the CORD conference bi-annually. Secured \$4,000 donation pledge. They have also pledged \$4,000 for the 2011 conference. They have agreed to develop support for ISAAC and the CORD conference among educators in the state of South Carolina. Dr. Boutte and Dr. Long are Honorary Conference Chairs. They set up Honorary Conference Committee composed of Dr. Evelyn Fields, Chair, Department of Education, South Carolina State University, Dr. George Johnson, Coordinator, Special Education, South Carolina State University and Dr. Diane Stephens, Chair, Department of Teacher Education, University of South Carolina.

Keynote Speakers

Dr. A. Wade Boykin

Professor Cognitive Experimental Developmental Psychology and Executive Director, Capstone Research Institute, Howard University
"Fostering High Achievement for African American Students: What the Research Says"

Dr. V.P. Franklin

Presidential Chair and Distinguished Professor of History and Education at the University of California, Riverside, Editor, Journal of African American History
"The Scholar-Activist Tradition and Research on African American Education"

Presentations accepted from graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, junior and senior faculty, other scholars from the following institutions.

- Purdue University, Indiana
- Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island
- Emory University, Atlanta
- University of South Carolina
- South Carolina State University
- Howard University, D.C.
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- Saint Xavier University — Chicago
- North Carolina Chapel Hill
- The Ohio State University
- University of New Mexico
- Santa Clara University, California
- Defiance College, Ohio
- Lehigh University, Pennsylvania
- Sam Houston State University, Texas
- William Paterson University, New Jersey
- Guilford College, Greensboro, North Carolina
- Point Loma Nazarene University, Los Angeles, California
- Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan
- University of California, Riverside
- Clayton State University, Georgia
- Girls, Inc., Chicago

•Individual Researcher/Scholars

Everyone committed to attending the entire conference. Everyone paid their own way thereby absorbing the cost of the conference. All presenters who met the criteria were inducted as ISAAC Fellows. Dr. Boykin, Dr. Boutte, Dr. Long and Dr. Stephens were inducted as ISAAC Senior Fellows. There were 31 presenters: 2 keynote speeches, 25 panelists on 15 panels and 6 poster presentations. A direct mailing targeted 7,124 K-12 schools in Michigan and South Carolina. One purpose of the conference was to bridge the gap between research and practice. Our intent is to involve school district personnel in the dialogue with researchers about solutions to the achievement gap that affects African American children. Presenters and Participants will constitute the Research Arm of ISAAC. A meeting was held at the conference to create committees to:

1. Plan the 2011 conference and publicize.
2. Establish an online community for networking and information sharing.
3. Plan a research agenda related to issues affecting African American Children
4. Engage in collaborative research studies
5. Plan collaborative grant seeking. Secure the attendance of Foundation Executives at future conferences.
6. Serve as a support group for scholars interested in topics related to the African American child in school. This support group will increase the numbers of scholars working in this area who pursue doctoral degrees, attain tenure and establish academic careers. This is key to becoming a Think Tank that can provide intellectual leadership for the protection and nurturance of African American children.

Approximately 50 persons attended the conference. Nineteen persons signed up for committees to work with CORD as the research arm of ISAAC.

The decision was made to create an Online journal that is named, *African American Educational Review*. People who signed up for this committee will constitute the Editorial Board. Dr. Gloria Boutte, Professor at the University of South Carolina has agreed to be editor-in-chief. Dr. V.P. Franklin, ISAAC founding sponsor and editor of the Journal of African American History will guide us in its establishment and will serve in a formal role.

We will use the papers that are presented at CORD as a source for articles in the review. CORD will be held at Hilton Head Island biannually. We are also planning a call for papers for an issue that will be devoted to Supplementary Education for African American children.

Proposals Submitted

1. Proposal Submitted to the NBCDI to hold Round Table on African American Education in association with their annual meeting on October 25, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. *Proposal accepted.*

2. Prepared Proposal and Charter to establish ISAAC as a Research Center in Wayne State University. *Proposal submitted and under review.*
3. Women of Wayne Award, 2007-2008, \$1,000, *Awarded Fall 2007.*
4. Educational Development Grant Award Program at WSU applied for grant to develop 3 new courses on teaching the African American child to be offered in the College of Education, January 2008. \$5,000, *Not awarded.*
5. Visions for Children Curriculum project submitted to Office of the President, Wayne State University, The Model Urban University for the 21st Century: Laboratory for Urban Research request for letters of intent. *Not invited for Round Two submission.*
6. *Culturally Appropriate Pedagogy: Creation of an Instructional Accountability Infrastructure Within the School.* Submitted to the Council of the Great City Schools, Washington, D.C. \$157,500, Janice E. Hale, Ph.D., ISAAC, Karen Ridgeway, Director of the Office of Research, Evaluation and Management, Detroit Public Schools. Door opened by Deborah L. Winston, Principal, Bagley Elementary School, DPS. *Not awarded, May 2009.*

Foundations and Governmental Grant Seeking

1. Met with Pamela Alexander at the Ford Fund for support of ISAAC Mission, July 2008. Door opened by Sandra Lamb. *No response.*
2. Tried to set up a meeting with Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick to secure Federal Earmark Funding for ISAAC, October 2008 – January 2009. *Unsuccessful.*
3. Met with Sharon Polk, Program Associate at the Mott Foundation in Flint, Michigan. Interested in VFC Curriculum Project. Contact made by Dr. Robert Simmons, ISAAC Fellow. Stock market fell. *No new funding.* August 2008.
4. Skillman/Kellogg Foundation. Contacted by Lisa Cylar Miller as a result of Inaugural Round Table at WSU. Met with Tanya Allen and Lisa Cylar Miller in July 2008. Made presentation. Tanya Allen made an offer to open a door with the Kellogg Foundation which funds centers of this type and has a new initiative related to the vulnerable child mediated by race. Contacted Miguel Salut and Gail Christopher. No response to date. Plan to prepare packet and mailing. Skillman indicated the possibility of funding of pieces of the mission. *Have asked for meeting.*

Reports/Publications Completed

Explanations for Achievement Gap Performance of African American Children, Janice E. Hale, Ph.D., for the Wichita Falls (Texas) Public Schools System for Phale D. Hale Education Consulting, Washington, DC.

Hale, Janice. (2007). 'How race is made, how change is made.' Invited essay book review for *Journal of African American History*. V. 92, no. 3, Summer 2007.

*Hale, Janice. (2008). Children, Racial Disparities and Status of, in Moore, John Hartwell, ed. *Encyclopedia of Race and Racism*. 3 vols. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2008.

Organization Building Activities

Web site content created and supplied to designer, Dr. Mary Waker, Director of Instructional Technology in the College of Education at Wayne State University, 2875 hits to date: www.coe.wayne.edu/ISAAC.

Creation of Online Community for ISAAC Fellows

Creation of W.E.B. DuBois Chat Room for issue discussion (Founding Director's Chat Room)

Presentation to Wayne State University College of Education Alumni Board receiving endorsement and affiliation with ISAAC

Mailed membership cards and Fellow Certificates to over 100 members, Associate Fellows, Fellows and Senior Fellows in December 2008.

Creation of a data base for email and postal contact with constituency

Activity Toward Establishment of Income Stream

Project 12 Baskets

Plans for 2009-2010

1. **Establish Corporate Advisory Committee of ISAAC.** Soul Food Breakfast meeting in the Dean's Office at WSU on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 from 7:30 am – 9:00 am letters of invitation were mailed to 127 persons. One person responded. Breakfast was cancelled. I took Dr. Suezette Olaker to breakfast at the Detroit Breakfast Grille. After the Round Table I will revisit the establishment of this committee. She suggested an evening meeting rather than breakfast.
2. **Public Policy Lecture Series, May 8, 2010 at WSU.** I am working with Dr. V.P. Franklin, on the concept for this "summit". This will be the launch of FIGHT – the Public Policy arm of ISAAC. The foundation for this event will be laid at the Round Table Session on FIGHT on June 20, 2009.
3. **Round Table on African American Education at WSU, June/July 2010**
4. **Round Table on African American Education at NBCDI, October 2010**

5. **Secure funding for Visions for Children Curriculum Project** – revision of preschool curriculum for African American Children.
6. **Pursue funding of ISAAC through the Skillman/Kellogg connection.** Selection of an ISAAC program to develop into an income stream for the Institute. Need seed money to develop an income producing project. Need staff funding: Assistant Director and Secretary.

Books by Janice E. Hale

- *Hale, Janice. (2001). *Learning While Black: Creating Educational Excellence for African American Children*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 256 pages. Nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.
- *Hale, Janice. (1994). *Unbank the Fire: Visions for the Education of African American Children*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 256 pages. Nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.
- *Hale-Benson, Janice. (1986). *Black Children: Their Roots Culture and Learning Styles*. Revised Edition. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 240 pages. A new preface to the second edition and epilogue has been written by the author. Required in over 125 courses across the nation.
- *Hale, Janice. (1982). *Black Children: Their Roots Culture and Learning Styles*. Provo Utah: Brigham Young University Press.

Seminal Article by Janice E. Hale

- *Hale, Janice. (2004). "How Schools Shortchange African American Children." *Educational Leadership*, v. 62, no. 3, November pp. 34-39.

Readings for FIGHT

- Brantling, Ellen A. (2003). *Dividing classes: How the middle class negotiates and rationalizes school advantage*. N.Y.: RoutledgeFalmer.
- Herve Varenne and Edmund W. Gordon, (eds.), (2009). *Theoretical Perspectives on Comprehensive education*. Lewiston, N.Y.: Edwin Mellen.
- Edmund W. Gordon, B.L. Bridglall, and A.S. Meroe, eds. (2005). *Supplementary education: The hidden curriculum of high academic achievement*. Lanham, MD: Rowland & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- Edmund W. Gordon and Beatrice Bridglall. (2006). *Affirmative development: Cultivating academic ability*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

Peshkin, Alan. (2001). *Permissible advantage: The moral consequences of elite schooling*.
Wauwah, N.J.: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Readings for Research Agenda Collaboration

King, Joyce E., (ed.) (2005). *Black education: A transformative research and action agenda for the new century*. Wauwah, N.J.: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Ladson-Billings, Gloria and Tate, William, eds. (2006). *Education research in the public interest: Social justice, action and policy*. N.Y.: Teachers College Press.

Books on Reparations

Randall Robinson, *The Debt: What America Owes to Blacks* (2000);

Raymond Winbush, ed., *Should America Pay? Slavery and the Raging Debate on Reparations* (2003);

Mary Frances Berry, *My Face Is Black Is True: Callie House and the Struggle for Ex-Slave Reparations* (2005);

James W. Loewen, *Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism* (2005);

Elliott Jaspin, *Buried in the Bitter Waters: The Hidden History of Racial Cleansing in America* (2007);

David M.P. Freund, *Colored Property: State Policy and White Racial Politics in Suburban America* (2007);

Michael T. Martin, Michael T. and Marilyn Yaquinto, eds., *Redress for Historical Injustices in the United States: On Reparations for Slavery, Jim Crow, and their Legacies* (2007);

Douglas A. Blackmon's *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II* (2008); and other works.