



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 14, 2021

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Michigan Pre-K-12 Educators

FROM: Delsa Chapman, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent 
Division of Educator, Student and School Supports

SUBJECT: Diversity in Literature Four-Part Virtual Conference Series

Registration is now open for the Michigan Department of Education's (MDE's) four-part virtual conference: ***The Role of Diversity within the Literature that We Teach***. This free virtual conference series for Pre-K-12 teachers and administrators will take place on:

- October 28, 2021 *Keynote Speaker: Nikki Giovanni*
- January 27, 2022 *Keynote Speaker: Shonda Buchanan*
- April 28, 2022 *Keynote Speaker: Derrick Slack*
- July 28, 2022 *Keynote Speaker: TBD*

The first conference will be from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. EST.

A key factor in developing and supporting a life-long love of reading is ensuring that all children are engaged and see themselves in the literature that reflects their lives and the world's diversity. As students understand that diversity is an integral and vital part of the very fiber of our country, another step toward equity in America can be made.

An essential part of MDE's ongoing efforts to improve literacy achievement, the second goal of Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan, includes identifying and presenting resources that provide the opportunity to experience educational materials that reflect students' race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, and sexual orientation.

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MDE is committed to helping educators understand the role and importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion within the literature taught in classrooms Pre-K-12. Each conference session will feature a unique one-hour keynote address from a celebrated author renowned for their work around diversity, equity, and inclusion. Keynote speakers will discuss the history and value of diversity in literature and ways to expand diversity in literature in the classroom.

Each virtual conference session will include an opportunity for participants to choose a 50-minute educator-led breakout session aligned with their current professional interest: Pre-K, K-5, 6-8, 9-12, and administration.

Michigan educators can register for the conference series through October 25, 2021, by visiting the conference registration page: [The Role of Diversity Within the Literature that We Teach](#). CECHs will be available for those who attend the virtual conference series.

If you have questions regarding this diversity in literature professional learning series, please contact the literacy team at mde-earlyliteracy@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors