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The National Urban Alliance for Effective Education

WHO WE ARE

Since our founding in 1989 at Columbia University's Teachers College, the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education (NUA) has provided professional development, advocacy and organizational guidance that transform urban and suburban schools. We work with teachers, students, administrators and parents. The NUA has been a catalyst for positive change in metropolitan areas such as Albany, NY.; Bridgeport, CT.; Indianapolis; Minneapolis (11 urban and suburban district desegregation initiative); Newark, NJ.; New York City; San Francisco; Seattle; Birmingham; Greene County, GA; East Allen, IN and Prince George's County, MD.

The NUA has more than 50 education experts who work with teachers, students, school administrators and communities to identify strengths to address the needs and break down barriers that inhibit achievement. We are values-directed and data-driven.

The NUA has three beliefs that are at the core of school improvement. They are:

- Intelligence is modifiable;
- All students benefit from a focus on high intellectual performance;
- Learning is influenced by the interaction of culture, language and cognition.

Our approach is guided by the *The Pedagogy of Confidence*[®], the fearless expectation and support for the high intellectual performances of all students, especially those who are dependent on the school and community for achievement. We uncover strengths of students and teachers and then emphasize building on those strengths.

LEARNING FROM STUDENTS

Students are among the first to recognize that there is an enormous gap between their performance and potential. That is why we give students a voice in professional development, instruction and classroom management. Student voice is often ignored in school reform efforts despite its vast potential to inform and improve professional development. Students are integral to professional development and in many cases eventually co-teach instructional units with their teachers.

Components of StudentVoiceNUA™ include: student publications; radio shows; co-created and presented lessons and units; debating and public speaking; video documentaries; electronic field trips; student-led convocations and podcasts.

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Our work addresses the challenges today's schools face in ways that are powerful and replicable. Our process includes:

- A comprehensive Instructional Assessment
- A Course of Study to reflect the assessment's findings and district's standards/goals
- A school-based Course of Action for professional development
- Cross-district seminars in the *The Pedagogy of Confidence*[®] and high operational practices for high intellectual performances
- Demonstration lessons in classrooms
- On-site seminars, planning and peer coaching
- Leadership training for district and school administrators, coaches and teachers
- Summer academies and institutes
- Advocacy to build school, home and community relationships
- Peer observation of teaching practices



Transforming Schools | Transforming Lives