



The National Urban Alliance for Effective Education

Unique approaches, lasting achievement

For more than 20 years, NUA has helped dozens of school districts and thousands of teachers and students throughout the United States – from California to Minnesota to Georgia to New York, to name a few – to embolden teachers and accelerate academic achievement for students with these highly effective strategies:

StudentVoicesNUA™

With StudentVoicesNUA, we're building more culturally responsive classrooms where teachers develop greater knowledge about students' learning preferences and personal experiences, as well as strengthen their ability to document multiple forms of growth that students demonstrate.

NUA gives students a voice in professional development, instruction and classroom management because we believe they are integral to providing effective professional development, transforming learning and teaching for high performance. Students deepen their understanding of the learning process by participating in professional learning seminars with their teachers. Principals, school leaders, staff and parent leaders learn how to encourage and support students.

Student-teacher projects inspire learning through argument, deep and critical reading of texts, and analogous reasoning, and are embedded in NUA's professional development work in ways that include:

- Student-led report card conferencing
- Spoken Word Olympiad
- Debating and public speaking
- Video documentaries, Radio shows and cyber clubs
- Visual art and communication (graphic novels, theater)



"I got a lot of compliments from other teachers, saying they think when I grow up I'm going to be a very good teacher. They said that I taught the kids well, they understood what they were doing; they were the best learning group. I felt proud. It was one of the best feelings that I've had in life."

- Marc, a sixth grader

Pedagogy of Confidence®

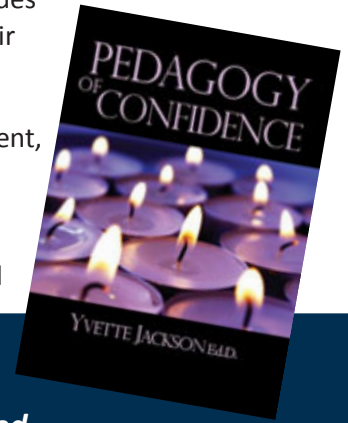
Extraordinary learning growth requires extraordinary teaching. The *Pedagogy of Confidence* provides practical approaches to rekindle educators' belief in their ability to inspire the vast capacity of their urban students.

Rooted in the latest research on culturally responsive teaching, cognition and language development, the *Pedagogy of Confidence* uses the science of learning to engage, to teach and to reach every child, and celebrates students' strengths and builds on them.

The unique approach shows educators how to focus on students' strengths to inspire learning and high intellectual performance by:

- ✓ using processes that reveal students' strengths to build on academic areas that need improvement
- ✓ amplifying students' voices to encourage a growth mindset
- ✓ demonstrating culturally responsive lessons in the classroom to show engagement and motivation; reading of complex texts in the content areas; writing in the content areas to show understanding and for self-expression; and vocabulary and comprehension development to construct meaning of nonfiction texts.

"The NUA incorporates instructional strategies and teaching practices that are aligned with the Common Core State Standards, which stress the development of critical thinking and analysis skills."



Professional Learning Model™

NUA's Professional Learning Model transforms beliefs about students' academic potential, improves school-based practices and revamps school structures to create educational climates where all students learn. Increasingly, teachers see students' backgrounds and cultures as strengths, and develop lessons that are relevant to students' lives.

The entire school community – teachers, students, administrators and parents – shares in continued professional development through meetings to exchange data and set goals to create a climate where learning is supported and celebrated.

Teachers' expectations of students' performance – and potential – are transformed by focusing not only on grades but on demonstrations of higher-order thinking (i.e., critical thinking skills) and high-intellectual performances (through work such as portfolios, art exhibits, science projects).

"This year is truly the best year of my teaching career. I learned so much at the NUA trainings and this knowledge is definitely rubbing off on my students."
- Melissa Hunt, Albany, NY