



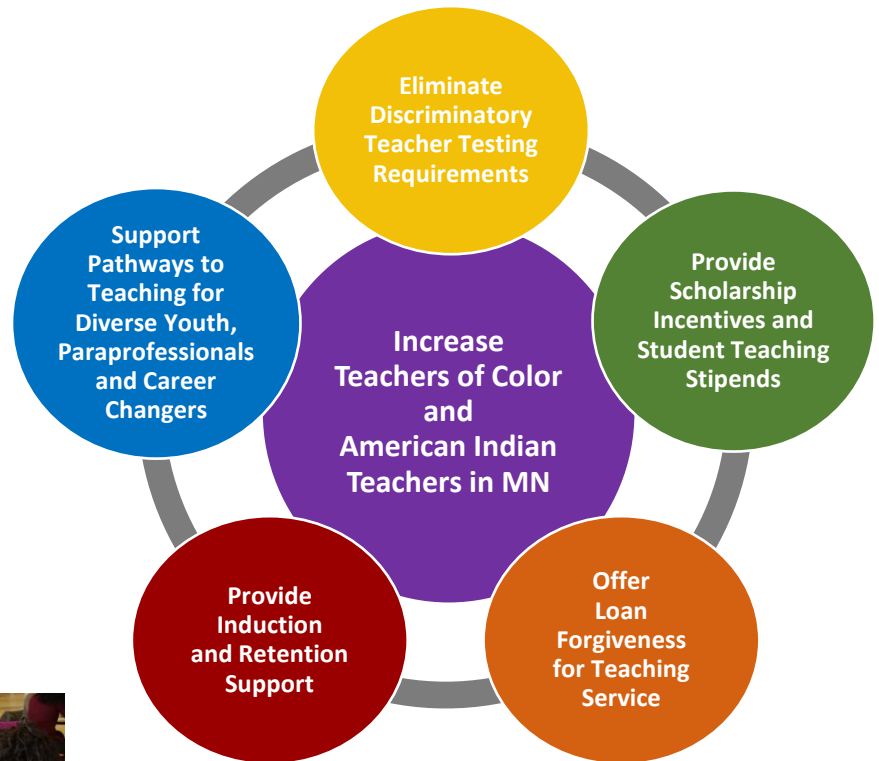
***“Advocating, Connecting, Healing, Inspiring, Sharing,  
Empowering and Transforming for Equity”***

**Summer 2016 Conference for  
Current and Aspiring  
Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers**

**August 10-12, 2016  
Metropolitan State University  
St. Paul, Minnesota**



*This conference is organized by*  
**The Coalition to Increase  
Teachers of Color and  
American Indian Teachers  
in Minnesota**  
[www.tocaimn.com](http://www.tocaimn.com)

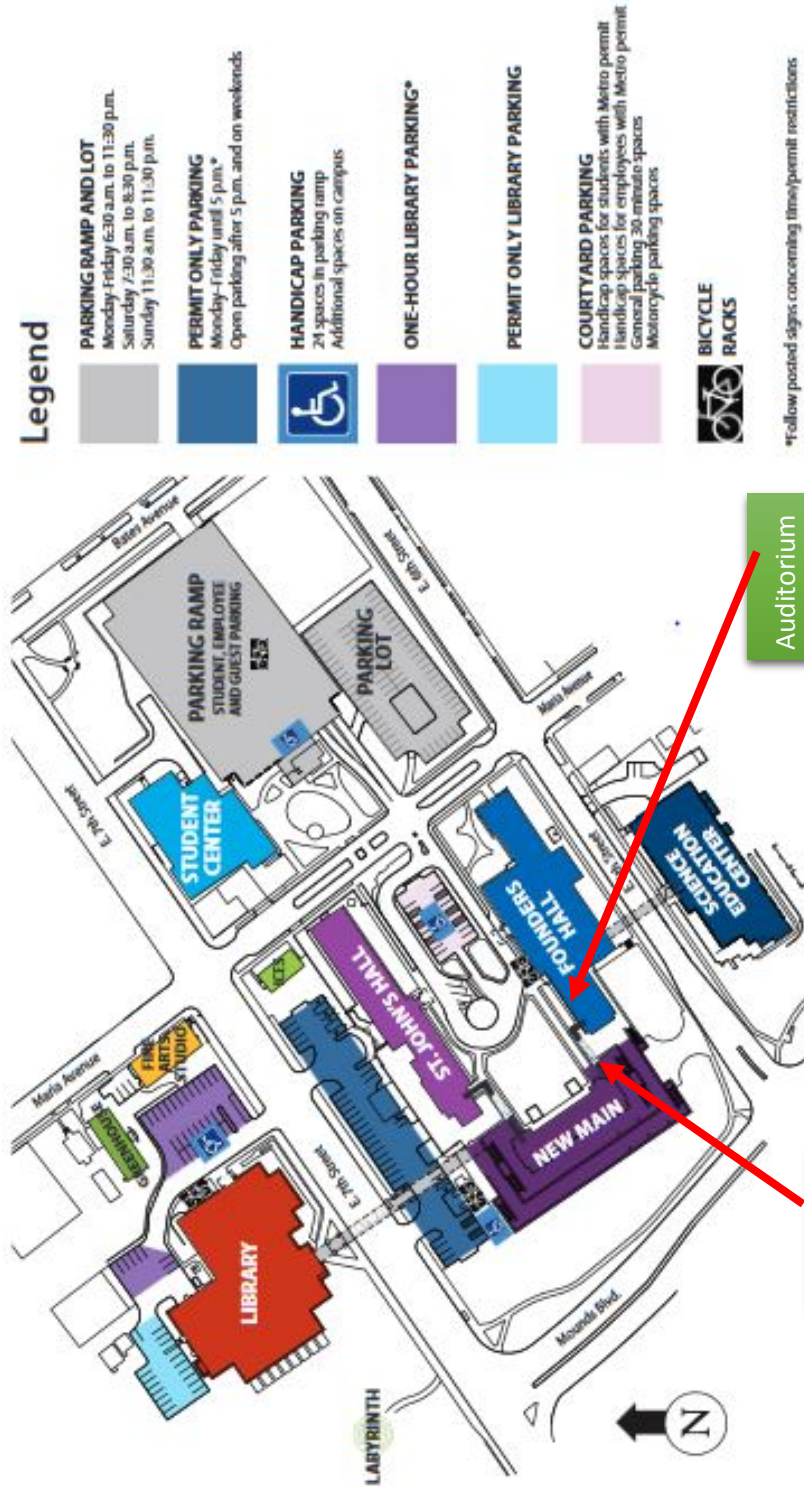


NOTES:

- 1) All breakout sessions in New Main and Founders are on the lower level (L) in classrooms below ground.
- 2) Gender neutral restrooms are located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (up) of New Main building and the Science building.
- 3) Anyone who needs accommodations for the conference and did not contact the University's Disability Services as requested *at least one week prior to the conference* should notify conference volunteers at the Registration Check-In Table in the Great Hall to discuss needs.
- 4) Sanctuary Group space for lunch is available in the same rooms where Sanctuary Groups will meet Thursday, 3:45-5pm (see pg 5)



SAINT PAUL CAMPUS



# *“Advocating, Connecting, Healing, Inspiring, Sharing, Empowering and Transforming for Equity”*

## Summer 2016 Conference for Current and Aspiring Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers **Program at a glance**

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

- 6-8 p.m. **Welcome reception** (Great Hall, New Main Building)  
6 p.m. **Check in and socializing**  
6:30 p.m. **Welcome remarks, spoken word**  
Abdul Wright, 2016 Minnesota Teacher of the Year  
7:15-8 p.m. **Socializing**



### THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

- 8-9 a.m. **Check in and breakfast** (Great Hall, New Main Building)  
8:30-9 a.m. **Prelude to opening session** – Native American singing and drumming  
9-10:30 a.m. **Opening General Session** (Founders Hall Auditorium)  
Keynote: Jahana Hayes—National Teacher of the Year  
10:30-11:40 a.m. **Panel Discussion about Conference Themes:** Jahana and Minnesota Teacher of the Year Finalists—Abdul Wright, Maria Le, Whitney McKinley, and Juanita Ortiz (Founders Hall Auditorium)  
11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **Lunch** (Great Hall)  
12:45-2 p.m. **Breakout session I** (see detailed schedule on pg 4)  
2:15-3:30 p.m. **Breakout sessions II** (repeated from session I)  
3:45-5 p.m. **Sanctuary Group Safe Space Discussions About Dealing With Challenges Faced Given One’s Identity** (see locations in detailed schedule on pg 5)  
5-6 p.m. **Resource Information Open House** (Founders Hall Auditorium Reception Area)  
5:30-7:30 p.m. **Networking social with food and beverages** (Great Hall, New Main Building)



### FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

- 8-9 a.m. **Continental breakfast and check in** (Great Hall, New Main Building)  
9-10:30 a.m. **Sharing Ideas and Successes in the Classroom: Grade-Level/Subject-Area Dialogues and Networking** (see locations in detailed schedule on pg 5)  
10:45-11:45 a.m. **Panel and Your Ideas: Next Steps for Action and the Coalition** (Founders Hall Auditorium)  
11:45 a.m.-12 p.m. **Closing thanks, evaluations, and door prizes for those present**

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS for Thursday, August 11

**\*\* Choose ONE session for 12:45-2 p.m. and ANOTHER for 2:15-3:30 p.m.**

Session	Time(s)	Topic or Session Title	Format	Location
A	12:45-2 p.m. OR 2:15-3:30 p.m.	Veteran educators share their stories of resiliency, renewal and impact over time	Panel discussion	NEW MAIN L214
B	12:45-2 p.m. OR 2:15-3:30 p.m.	Advice from teachers to untenured or beginning teachers	Panel discussion	FOUNDERS L118
C	12:45-2 p.m. OR 2:15-3:30 p.m.	Advice from beginning teachers to aspiring teachers	Panel discussion	NEW MAIN L213
D	12:45-2 p.m. OR 2:15-3:30 p.m.	Education administrative leaders of color on opportunities and challenges beyond the classroom	Panel discussion	FOUNDERS L117
E	12:45-2 p.m. OR 2:15-3:30 p.m.	Students and parents speak about the impact of having teachers of color and American Indian teachers	Panel discussion	NEW MAIN L210
F	12:45-2 p.m. OR 2:15-3:30 p.m.	"Indian Education: Past, Present and Future"	Panel discussion	FOUNDERS L119
G	12:45-2 p.m. OR 2:15-3:30 p.m.	MN Education Equity Partnership's <i>2016 State of Students of Color and American Indian Students Report</i> and Solutions not Suspensions Campaign	Presentation/ Q&A discussion	NEW MAIN L205
H	12:45-2 p.m. OR 2:15-3:30 p.m.	Education MN's Ethnic Minority Affairs Council (EMAC) and the 2016 Teachers of Color Survey Results	Presentation/ Q&A discussion	FOUNDERS L120
I	12:45-2 p.m. OR 2:15-3:30 p.m.	"Managing and Addressing Burdens in White K-12 Systems: Being an Effective Agent of Change"	Roundtable discussions and open forum	SCIENCE 115
J	12:45-2 p.m. OR 2:15-3:30 p.m.	"Efforts to Implement Ethnic Studies & Culturally Responsive Curriculum"	Panel and open forum	NEW MAIN L211
K	12:45-2 p.m. OR 2:15-3:30 p.m.	"Recruiting Our Community Members Into Teaching: Ideas and Action Plans from Indigenous Communities and Communities of Color"	Roundtable discussions and open forum	LIBRARY 302
L	12:45-2 p.m. OR 2:15-3:30 p.m.	"Challenging Oppressive and Racist Practices as Teacher Candidates in the College Classroom"	Roundtable discussions and open forum	FOUNDERS AUDITORIUM RECEPTION AREA
M	12:45-2 p.m. OR 2:15-3:30 p.m.	"Addressing Barriers and Reforming Teacher Education: Leading Change as Teacher Educators"	Panel and open forum	LIBRARY 306
N	12:45-2 p.m. OR 2:15-3:30 p.m.	"Resisting Licensure Tests as Barriers to the Profession"	Presentation and open forum	LIBRARY 307
O	12:45-2 p.m. OR 2:15-3:30 p.m.	"Legislation to Increase Teachers of Color & American Indian Teachers: Recap of 2016 Session and Your Ideas for Bills Needed in 2017 Legislative Session"	Presentation and open forum	NEW MAIN L209
P	12:45-2 p.m. OR 2:15-3:30 p.m.	"Spiritual Healing and Renewal: An Interfaith and Interdenominational Dialogue"	Roundtable discussions and open forum	SCIENCE 216
Q	12:45-2 p.m. 2:15-3:30 p.m.	"Body Healing: Tips and Methods for Taking Care of Yourself"	Presentation/ Involvement	SCIENCE ATRIUM (Ground Level)

**Thursday, 3:45-5 p.m. Safe Space Discussions about Dealing with Challenges Faced Given One’s Identity**

“What have you experienced in part or whole because of your identity that has been challenging where you work or study, and what have you done to deal with these challenges?”

SANCTUARY GROUPS	LOCATION
American Indian, Native American, Indigenous	FOUNDERS L120
Asian American, Asian, Pacific Islander, *Desi	SCIENCE 115
Black, African American, African	LIBRARY 302
Latinx, Hispanic, Chicana/o	FOUNDERS L117
White, European American	NEW MAIN L210
Multi-Ethnic, Mixed Heritage, Bi-Racial, Multi-Racial	NEW MAIN L213
LGBTQ	NEW MAIN L214

\* **Desi** [de:si] is a loose term for the people from the Indian subcontinent or South Asia and their diaspora, derived from the Ancient Sanskrit *देश* (*deśá* or *deshi*), meaning *Land* or *Country*. "Desi" countries include Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. (source: Wikipedia)

**Friday, 9-10:30 a.m. Sharing Successes and Getting New Ideas: School Level/Subject-Area/Role Dialogues and Networking**

“What is one lesson or unit that went really well, or what would you like ideas for doing in your classroom or school related to a particular topic?”

SCHOOL LEVEL, SUBJECT AREA, or ROLE	LOCATION
Early Childhood	FOUNDERS L117
Elementary	SCIENCE 115
ESL/Bilingual	FOUNDERS L119
Electives (Arts, CTE, FACS, PE, World Languages, etc)	NEW MAIN L210
English Language Arts	NEW MAIN L214
Mathematics	NEW MAIN L205
Science	NEW MAIN L209
Social Studies	NEW MAIN L213
Special Education	NEW MAIN L211
Administrators	FOUNDERS L118
Teacher Educators	FOUNDERS L120

# THANK YOU TO OUR CO-SPONSORS!

The 2016 Conference for Current and Aspiring Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers  
was made possible through generous contributions by:



Advancing **Race Equity** & Excellence



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

# Acknowledgements

This special conference would not have been possible without the leadership and involvement of dozens of people involved in planning and implementation. In addition to those named below,

**THANK YOU to the many volunteers who helped make this conference possible!**

**THANK YOU to all of the presenters, panelists, performers and session facilitators!**  
*(see names listed by session in program supplement)*

**THANK YOU for participating in this conference!**

Conference Planning Committee	Logistics Support
Faustina Cuevas—Co-Chair University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	Robert Boos Metro State University
Maurella Cunningham—Co-Chair St. Olaf College	Vichet Chhuon University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
Yvonne RB-Banks—Co-Chair Metro State University	Renee King Metro State University
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Rachel Endo Hamline University	
Paul Spies Metro State University	
Gerald White Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and Deer River School District	

## CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### ABDUL WRIGHT—2016 MINNESOTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Besides being named Minnesota Teacher of the Year, Abdul Wright achieved two firsts. Wright, who teaches eighth-grade language arts at the Best Academy in Minneapolis, is the first black male to win the honor, and also the first charter-school teacher so honored.

Wright grew up on the south side of Chicago before his single mother moved him and his siblings to a north Minneapolis one-bedroom apartment they shared with his grandfather and his wife. They later moved into Mary's Place, transitional housing for homeless families with children in Minneapolis, for some time. He went on to receive a bachelor's degree from Concordia University in St. Paul and is receiving his master's degree in education from Hamline University.

In accepting his award Wright said, "I know that I have an opportunity to give young people who come from across this country, especially African-American people, a model of excellence to aspire to....Everyone in this room is deserving of this award. We come from a diverse group of backgrounds, and we all have our own experiences. And to know that so many people who come from all over the state have one thing in common, and that's to make our students rock stars."

Excerpted from: *Zamora, Startribune, 5-16-16*



### JAHANA HAYES—2016 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Jahana's route to teaching began as a student. The first in her family to graduate from college, she was inspired by her teachers who urged her to dream bigger and who believed that she was college material, despite a challenging upbringing.

She has reflected, "Growing up, education was never seen as a pathway to success in my family, yet my teachers believed in me. Some of them even let me borrow books to read at home. They challenged me to imagine myself in a different set of circumstances, no matter how difficult. They encouraged me to do more, be more, expect more, and become the first in my family to go to college. They inspired me to become a teacher so I could make the same kind of impact in my own students' lives -- a teacher whose influence extends beyond the classroom." ([www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov))

A veteran history teacher at John F. Kennedy High School in Waterbury, Connecticut, Jahana also sees herself as an advisor, counselor, confidant and protector. She endeavors to fill the role her own teachers had in her life,

guiding students to be their best selves and encouraging them to take ownership of their communities. She said, "We need to find that gift in every single student," she explained. "Whatever they're good at, and keep reminding them every single day that they are so awesome." (Klein, *Huffingtonpost.com*, 4-28-16)

For Jahana, being a teacher is a privilege and an opportunity to transform lives and foster a sense of social responsibility in the next generation. As the 2016 National Teacher of the Year and a spokesperson for the teaching profession, Jahana hopes to motivate more people to become educators, especially teachers of color, and continue to carry out this important work. She said, "I know what the demographics look like and I know that we really have to make this profession more attractive to people — people who previously felt they were not included in this conversation." (Megan, *Hartford Courant*, 4-28-16)

"As a country, we really need to have some real talk about equity issues and making sure every student, in every state, and every community, has high-quality education," (Guild, *Huffington Post*, 5-5-16)

Jahana has taught for the past 12 years, 10 of which have been in her current role. She earned an Associate's degree from Naugatuck Valley Community College, a Bachelor of Science from Southern Connecticut State University, a Master of Arts from Saint Joseph University and a certification from the University of Bridgeport.



## Notes

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# The Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color & American Indian Teachers in Minnesota

*Dozens of Communities, Districts, Organizations, Institutions and Hundreds of Individuals United and Organizing for Change Around a Common Goal towards Closing Opportunity Gaps and Achieving Equity*

## THE CURRENT PROBLEM

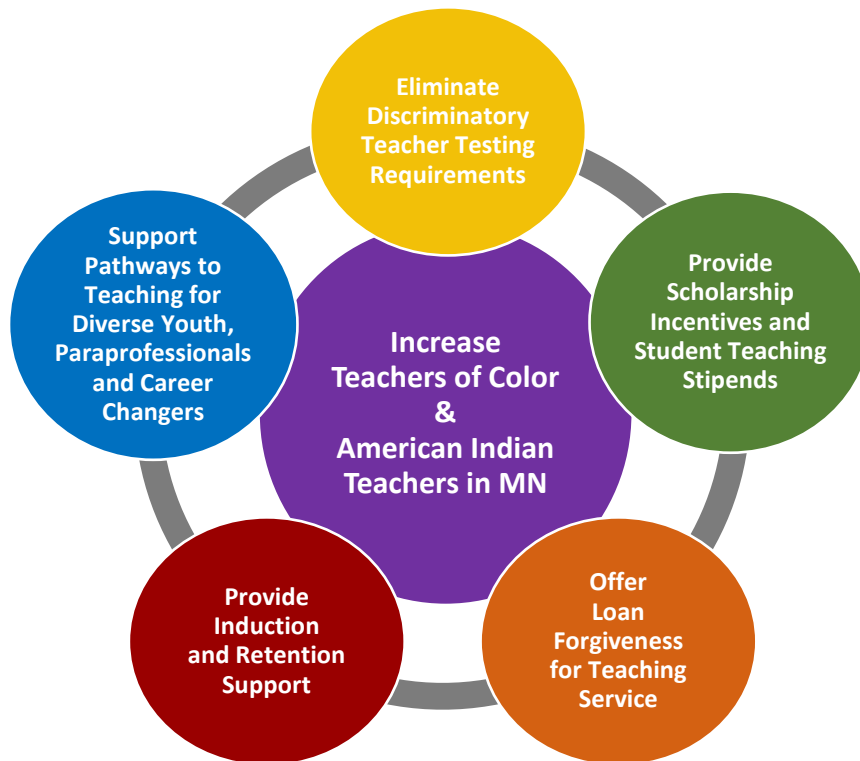
### FACING MINNESOTA:

**A Severe Shortage of Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers (only 4% of all teachers in the state) that contributes to persistent and wide opportunity and achievement gaps.**

## PROPOSED STATE GOAL:

**Double the number of teachers of color and American Indian teachers in Minnesota (currently approximately 2,200), and ensure that at least 20% of the teacher preparation pipeline are persons of color and American Indian (n=1,000) by 2020.**

## State Policy and Investment Changes Needed



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