



Latinameka

**OMEKA AND LATINAMEKA
EDUCATION SUMMIT**

**Promoting
Equity and Academic
Success for
Students of Color**

September 25, 2010

8:00 A.M. — 4:30 P.M.

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

Omeka and Latinameka

WELCOME

It is our pleasure to welcome you to this important education summit. Create CommUNITY continues its commitment to engage families of color and other stakeholders to identify solutions to disparities in educational attainment. The Omeka/Latinameka Education Summit is the result of women of color expressing the need to know and learn more about the resources, programs and research concerning the academic success, equity and access for students of color.

The women of Omeka and Latinameka believe every child deserves a good education and we will do what is needed to create and foster a community of educational excellence.

We thank our corporate sponsors for their generous contributions to make this summit a success. We want to acknowledge the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation, the Great River Interfaith Partnership and St. Cloud State University for their generous support. We would also like to thank all of the community partners, donors and volunteers who have contributed to our success, especially Rev. Yolanda Lehman and Atonement Lutheran Church who serve as our gracious host. We hope you enjoy the day.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Lalita Subrahmanyam



Dr. Lalita Subrahmanyam is the Director for the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and a Professor of Elementary and Middle Level Education at St. Cloud State University. Her PhD, attained in 1993 from the State University at Buffalo, was in Comparative Education with an emphasis on women in science. She has taught courses in the Honor's program, feminist perspectives on Hindu philosophy and practice. Her emphasis in her teaching and work is on developing students to be thinking citizens in a global and pluralistic democracy. Additionally, she has had extensive experience working with schools in Minnesota since 1993. From 2000 to 2002 she served as the Cultural Diversity Coordinator for the St. Cloud Public School's .

EDUCATION SUMMIT SCHEDULE

<u>Time</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Room</u>
8:-00-9:00 A.M.	Registration	
9:00—10:10 A.M.	Keynote Address	Fellowship Hall
10:15—11:45 A.M.	Special Education-What Do I Need to Know? Presenters: <i>Bonnie Jean Smith</i> <i>(This presentation will be in English Language)</i>	Room 1
	Access & Opportunity Program Presenters: <i>Dr. Robert Johnson, Jenel Chang, Mohamed Hassan, Ahmed Mohamed, Angela Nastrom, Twyla Nielsen</i> <i>(This presentation will be in English Language with Spanish translation)</i>	Room 2
	Tips for Talking to School Staff Presenters: <i>Hassan Samantar</i> <i>(In Somali language)</i>	Room 3
	Anti-Bias Education for Early Childhood Presenter: <i>Laura Pfandler</i>	Room 4
	What about the Children? Re-Connecting Parents of Color to Student Success Presenter: <i>Eleanor Coleman</i>	Room 5
	Suspensions, Tickets and Juvenile Detention: Examining School Discipline Policies and Practices Presenter: <i>Lydia White</i> <i>(This presentation will have Spanish & Somali translation)</i>	Room 4
11:45-12:15 A.M.	LUNCH	
12:15-02:00 P.M.	Special Education—What Do I Need to Know? Presenters: <i>Hassan Samantar</i> <i>(This presentation will be in Somali)</i>	Room 1
	Access & Opportunity Program Presenters: <i>Dr. Robert Johnson, Jenel Chang, Mohamed Hassan, Ahmed Mohamed, Angela Nastrom, Twyla Nielsen</i> <i>This presentation will be in Somali Language)</i>	Room 2
	Helping Parents and Primary Guardians Navigate the Complex Teaching & Testing Environments that Characterize K-12 Schools Presenter: <i>Dr. Frances Kayona</i> <i>(This presentation will have Somali & Spanish translation)</i>	Room 3
	Panel Discussion: School District 742 Cultural Navigators Moderator: <i>Luis Saenz</i>	Room 4
	Families' Rights - A Roadmap to our Education Laws Presenter: <i>Heather Kilgore</i> <i>(This presentation will have Spanish & Somali translation)</i>	Room 5
	Panel Discussion: School Board Candidate Forum Moderator: <i>Great River Interfaith Partnership and area parents</i>	Fellowship Hall

2:00-2:10 P.M.

BREAK

2:10-3:00 P.M.

Boys & Girls Club: Tutoring Resources & Opportunities

Room 1

Presenter: Rev. Buddy King

(This presentation will have Spanish & Somali translation)

Reading and the Importance of Self-Esteem

Room 2

Presenter: Venus Thomas

(This presentation will have Spanish & Somali translation)

Advocacy 101 (Early Childhood)

Room 3

Presenter: Barbara Eckberg

Language Immersion Programs at St. Cloud Area
School District 742

Room 5

Presenter: Sue Linn-Hasbrouck & Carlyn Ray

(This presentation will have Spanish & Somali translation)

Music Builds Literacy Skills La Musica Construye
Habilidades del Lenguaje

Fellowship Hall

Presenters: Marcelyn Smale, Luz Consueelo Triana-Echeverria

3:00-3:10 P.M.

BREAK

3:10-4:00 P.M.

Tutoring as a Tool to Narrow the Achievement Gap

Room 1

Presenter: Sandra Russell-Flowers

(This presentation will have Spanish & Somali translation)

Earn College Credits While in High School with the
Senior-to-Sophomore Program!

Room 2

Presenter: Kay Collins Sebastian

(This presentation will have Spanish & Somali translation)

The Challenges Facing Males of Color in Education

Room 3

Presenter: John McCray

Panel: Health, Nutrition and Student Achievement

Room 4

Rosemond Owens, Dr. Mary T. Howard, Icephine Johnson, Issac Owen

Gaining Access and Graduating from College

Room 5

Presenter: Adrece Thighman-Nabe & Martha Noyola

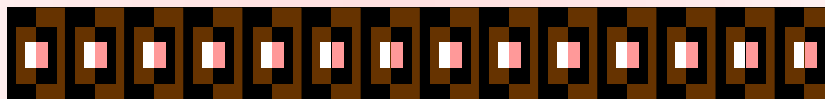
Your Library and You: Services for Children and Families

Room 6

Presenter: Chris Mallo

(This presentation will have Spanish & Somali translation)

4:00—4:30 PM **WORLD CAFÉ. & DOOR PRIZES**



**OMEKA/LATINAMEKA EDUCATION SUMMIT
EDUCATION SUMMIT PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS**

Special Education...What Do I Need to Know?

Presenters: Bonnie Jean Smith and Hassan Samantar

This session will particularly benefit parents of children with special needs to help them understand special education and discover the very important role of parents in this process. Topics will include evaluation, the educational program or IEP, addressing behavior concerns, and working together. Time will be available for parents to ask questions.

Tips for Talking with School Staff

Presenters: Bonnie Jean Smith and Hassan Samantar

This session will particularly benefit parents of children with special needs. Parents will learn easy-to-use, practical tips for communicating with school staff. Questions and discussion are welcome.

Language Immersion Programs at St. Cloud Area School District 742

Presenters: Sue Linn-Hasbrouck, Spanish Immersion Coordinator for Clearview; Carlyn Ray, Equity Services Coordinator; St. Cloud State University Professors who work with the Chinese Immersion Program at Madison Elementary; Parents of students in the Immersion Programs

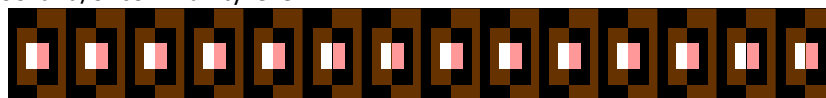
Foreign language immersion programs are the most successful school-based language learning program model currently available. Immersion programs in the state of Minnesota have proven to be very successful at providing high quality education in a culture rich environment. The long-term outcomes for students participating in immersion include a high level of proficiency in the foreign language, positive attitudes toward those who speak the foreign language and toward their culture, English language skills, plus skills and knowledge in all content areas of the curriculum (*Pesola, 1991; Curtain, 1993; Met, 1993*). This break-out session will highlight the two language immersion programs available in the St. Cloud Area School District: **Guang Ming Academy (Chinese) at Madison Elementary School and Academia de Español Vista Clara (Spanish) at Clearview Elementary School**. These immersion programs currently serve grades K-3 and will be expanded an additional grade level each year until middle school. Currently, no other immersion programs exist within the greater Central Minnesota area.

Target Audience: Parents of pre-school or elementary aged students who are interested in learning more about Language Immersion Programs. High-School/College aged students who are interested in learning more about Language Immersion Programs and may be interested in teaching or working in an Immersion Program in the future.

Advocacy 101

Presenter: Barbara Eckberg

Advocacy 101 is an interactive session that will provide parents with the tools needed to successfully advocate and support their child(ren)'s growth and development. This will be an interactive session with opportunities for discussions between participants. The focus will be on those parents that might be new to the role of advocate. The discussion will be most useful to parents with children between birth and 5 years of age. There will be time set aside to talk about getting involved in the governance of early care and education programs at the school and/or community level.



Anti-Bias Education for Early Childhood

Presenter: Laura Pfandler, Anti-Defamation League (ADL)

Parents and guardians are children's first teachers when it comes to developing a sense of identity and combating stereotypes and negative attitudes. In this session participants will develop skills to help children understand, respect and appreciate differences. Activities will focus on how children develop their attitudes about identity and difference and what adults can do to encourage children to embrace diversity. All participants will receive a copy of *Bias-Free Foundations: Activities for Families*. This session should particularly benefit parents and caregivers of children aged two to five. Given the research, it is critical to reach family members. Family members who have anti-bias training and support materials, not only are better equipped to address the needs of diverse children, but they are vital in helping to create positive homes. With anti-bias training programs, families receive the tools to promote respect and tolerance for diversity of all kinds, including but not limited to linguistic, socio-economic, ethnic, and religious diversity.

Earn College Credits While in High School With the *Senior-to-Sophomore Program!*

Presenter: Kay Collins Sebastian, Director Senior to Sophomore Program, Center for Continuing Studies, St. Cloud State University

The *Senior-to-Sophomore Program*, (S2S) is a partnership between St. Cloud State University and participating high schools. S2S allows eligible students to enroll in college courses taught in their high schools. We refer to this program as "*Senior-to-Sophomore*" since it may be possible for students to earn enough credits to actually begin their first year of college as a sophomore, depending on the number of courses their local school offers. The program is an alternative to the on-campus Post Secondary Education Options program. The Senior-to-Sophomore Program offers students an opportunity to: earn college credits while meeting high school graduation requirements; participate in rigorous college courses and learn college level skills in critical thinking, writing, research, course management, etc; have the convenience of enrolling in classes right on the high school campus, reducing scheduling and transportation difficulties. This session should particularly benefit parents and students who are interested in the opportunity to earn college credit during their Junior and Senior year in high school. Learn about the program requirements and the many benefits of earning college credits in high school.

The Challenges Facing Male Students of Color in Education

Presenters: John McCray and Clarence White

This presentation will explore how male students of color can get the most out of their education from elementary, junior high, high school and beyond including vocational training, college and the military.

Tutoring as a Tool to Narrow the Achievement Gap

Presenter: Sandra Russell-Flowers

This session will demonstrate how tutoring can be used to narrow the achievement gap, to inform participants of the Tutoring services that are available in Saint Cloud and to discuss how the community can establish a tutoring academy that focuses on K-3rd grade. The tripod effect will be used. One leg is the school, one leg is the parent and one leg is the community. Each leg when strong is holding the child on the top. However if one leg is weak, the child will fall. Tutoring can be used to keep the three legs standing strong so that the child is held high academically. Information on how tutoring uses the **time gap** as a way to shorten the bridge to the **achievement gap**.



Access and Opportunity Program: Steps Parents Can Take to Improve Chances of College Admissions and Success

Presenters: Dr. Robert C. Johnson, Jenel Chang (South), Mohamed Hassan (Apollo) Ahmed Mohamed (Tech), Angela Nastrom (Tech), Twyla Nielsen (North).

Students of color tend to have lower rates of college participation than other groups, as well as lower rates of college graduation. Research shows that academic preparation in elementary, middle and high school is related to college attendance and college graduation. The more students develop skills and knowledge at these levels, the more likely they will be successful in completing post-secondary education. It has also been shown that students are more likely to receive needed financial aid if they file information in a timely fashion. Many students of color do not obtain the degree of financial assistance they may be eligible for because they do not submit materials early enough in the financial aid process. Staff members for the Access and Opportunity Program will lead these sessions. The St. Cloud Access and Opportunity Center is a MnSCU-funded partnership which includes: St. Cloud State University (SCSU), St. Cloud Technical and Community College (SCTCC), and St. Cloud School District (District 742). It's purpose is to improve academic achievement; improve high school graduation rates; increase rigorous college preparatory course-taking behavior; and increase post-secondary participation among underrepresented students in grades 8-12 in District 742.

Music Builds Literacy Skills/La Música Construye Habilidades del Lenguaje

Presenters: Marcelyn Smale, Professor of Music, St. Cloud State University

Luz Consuelo Triana-Echeverría, Professor of Spanish, St. Cloud State University

Children can learn listening, speaking and reading skills through singing, singing games and other enjoyable musical activities. This session should particularly benefit parents and teachers of children ages 3 to 8. They will learn new songs and activities and will find new ways to use familiar ones. Children are invited to participate in the activities with their parents. The session will include English- and Spanish-language activities, explanations and hand-outs.

Los niños pueden aprender a escuchar, hablar y leer mientras cantan y hacen juegos y actividades musicales que disfruten. Esta sesión beneficiará especialmente a padres y maestros de niños de 3 a 8 años. Ellos aprenderán nuevas canciones, harán actividades y encontrarán formas de usar lo aprendido a cosas que ya les eran familiares. Los niños están invitados a participar en las actividades con sus padres. La sesión incluye actividades en inglés y español, explicaciones e información escrita en volantes.

Helping Parents and Primary Guardians Navigate Through the Complex Teaching and Testing Environments that Characterize our K-12 Schools

Presenter: Dr. Frances Ann Kayona, Associate Professor, Educational Leadership and Community Psychology, St. Cloud State University

This session is designed to help parents and primary guardians understand the relationship between the school curriculum (what is being taught) and standardized tests (what is being assessed). It should particularly benefit parents and primary guardians who are not familiar with Minnesota school curricula (subject matter) and the purpose and use of various tests and assessment data. Specifically, this session will prepare parents and primary guardians to be more actively engaged in the teaching and learning activities of the school; to be proactive participants in the education of their children; and to ask relevant questions of teachers and administrators regarding subjects being taught and how students are being assessed (based on what is being taught). Commonly used curriculum and assessment terms and concepts will be introduced to parents to help them make sense of student test scores and other achievement data provided by Minnesota schools. The main objective of this session is to help parents and primary guardians hold Minnesota public schools accountable for (1) providing students with the opportunity to learn and (2) ensuring students are achieving the expected learning results as determined by the school's written plan of instruction.



Tutoring Resources and Opportunities

Presenter: Rev. Buddy King, Unit Director, Roosevelt Boys and Girls Club

The Boys & Girls Club of Central Minnesota provides a fun, safe, and positive, affordable resource for all youth grades K-12. The mission of Boys & Girls Club is to enable all youth, especially those who need us most, to be productive, caring and responsible citizens. This session will focus on our five core areas of youth development including education and career development, character leadership, the arts, recreation and sport fitness. Parents will have an opportunity to learn about valuable opportunities for tutoring and mentoring, self-development and the different kinds of self-expression. Youth of the Year Winners will give testimonials and answer questions about how the Boys & Girls Club have positively impacted their lives. The presentation will include interactive games, conversations and a question and answer session.

Reading and the Importance of Self-Esteem

Presenter: Venus Thomas

The reading curriculum does not reflect African, African American, Latino/Latina, Native American, and other students of color. What students are taught reinforces the typical stereotypes for all races. Student self-image and self-esteem are impacted by what they see and hear daily. What is seen, said, and implied reflects a positive image for the "majority" group, but a negative image for most students of color. We will investigate this model and ways for parents to supplement the curriculum and explore what changes they may wish to advocate for the current curriculum.

Your Library and You: Services for Children and Families

Presenter: Chris Mallo, Children's Services Specialist, Great River Regional Library

From literature-based programs and parenting/teaching collections, to online databases and reader's advisory, we'll highlight the services the public library has for you and your children.

Families' Rights – A Roadmap to our Education Laws

Presenter: Heather Kilgore is the Director of Public Policy at PACER Center

This interactive session will provide an overview of federal programs available from schools to help students succeed in school and in life. Topics will include Title I, school testing and school accountability, and the important roles of families in these programs. Families will leave empowered to become more involved in advocating for their child's best education, and in making schools better for all children.

What about the Children?: Re-Connecting Parents of Color to Student Success

Presenter: Eleanor T. Coleman, Ed.D., Coleman Consulting Services, LLC.

It is no secret that children of color are failing at alarming rates in our schools. This workshop will focus on increasing the involvement of parents as a strategy to improve the schools' accountability for the performance of children of color. Parental involvement, achievement/behavior, and empowerment will be discussed. Recommendations for parents to increase their level of involvement will be presented.

Gaining Access and Graduating from College

Presenters – Adrece Thighman-Nabe, Associate Director of Admissions, St. Cloud State University, Martha Noyola, Undergraduate Academic Advisor, St. Cloud State University

Why is it more important now than at other times in U.S. history for members of communities of color to obtain higher education degrees? Adrece Thighman-Nabe and Martha Noyola will discuss college admission; effective strategies for successful admissions; the financial aid process; and accessing programs and opportunities designed to support and enable the success of students of color at St. Cloud State University. This presentation is specifically geared for parents of students in grades 5 through 12.



Health, Nutrition and Student Achievement Panel

Moderator: Rosemond Owens Panelist: Icephine Johnson, Dr. Mary T. Howard, Isaac Owens

Health is an integral part of a student's ability to achieve in school. This panel will highlight the essential health and nutritional needs of students for high achievement in school.

Panel Discussion: How Cultural Navigators Impact Student Success

Presenters: Luis Saenz and District 742 Cultural Navigators

Suspensions, Tickets and Juvenile Detention: Examining School Discipline Policies and Practices

Presenter: Lydia White, J. D.; Sgt. Mark Molino, St. Cloud Police Department; Mark Haase, J.D. & Sarah Walker, 180 Degrees Inc., Second Chance Coalition

During the 2008-2009 school year there were nearly 900 out-of-school suspensions, and 579 in-school suspensions in the St. Cloud Area School District 742. Although Black students made up 15% of the district's student body, they represented 51% of the suspended students. Unfortunately, this is a pattern repeated in school districts across Minnesota and the United States. This session will examine our school discipline policies and practices, and provide information that parents should know if their children are suspended from school or receive other disciplinary action. We will also review current research and data regarding the disparities in the suspension and school discipline rates for students of color; the impact of these practices on student success and achievement; and consider some of the recommended best practices used by schools to close the disparity gaps in school discipline and positively engage students of color.

St. Cloud Police Sgt. Mark Molina supervises the six St. Cloud police officers who are assigned to work in District 742 schools. He will present information about the police liaison program and their purpose and role in the school system.

In addition to a school's disciplinary action, liaison officers are sometimes called to issue "tickets" to some students which creates a criminal record. Sarah Walker and Mark Haase of 180 Degree, Inc. and the Minnesota Second Life Coalition will also present information about the impact of school suspensions and particularly the impact a criminal record has on a student's future.



Education Summit Planning Committee

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