Embracing diversity

Diversity in the classroom means recognizing that there is no “one size fits all” approach to teaching. As a culturally responsive teacher, it is important to meet the needs of the diverse population within the classroom.

There are a number of online resources available that can provide you with examples of how others have successfully implemented culturally responsive teaching into their classroom. Check out www.teachingchannel.org and www.teachertube.com. These websites have tons of great teaching videos available for free!

Please email ideas for future topics or upcoming events to Emily Hanson, GA, at erhanson@unomaha.edu or by dropping off submissions to Roskens Hall 204K. Our Lens is a COE Diversity Committee sponsored project.
Professional Development: Curriculum, Resources & Events

UNO Black History Month Events:

Monday, Feb. 3rd – Kick Off Celebration from 11:00-1:00 in MBCS Dodge Room
Wednesday, Feb. 5th – Robert D. Rose, Tuskegee Airman Speaker 11-1pm in MBSC Nebraska Room
Thursday, Feb. 6th - “A Prince Among Slaves” Film, from 6:30-8:30pm in CPACS Commons
Sunday, Feb. 9th – Workshop: in the Gospel Tradition at Salem Baptist Church starting at 11:30am
Tuesday, Feb. 11th – Robert Armstrong, Omaha Housing Authority CEO Speaker, 11-1 in MBSC
Sunday, Feb. 16th – Workshop in the Gospel Tradition at Zion Baptist Church at 10:40am
Wednesday, Feb. 19th – Untold Stories Film/Discussion, from 11-2pm in MBSC Nebraska Room
Thursday, Feb. 20th – Lunch and Books, Free trip to Aframerican Bookstore from 11-1pm
      Sign Up with Black Studies or Multicultural Affairs
Friday, Feb. 21st – Malcolm X Day, Free trip to Malcolm X Birth site from 11-1pm
      Sign Up with Black Studies or Multicultural Affairs
Saturday, Feb. 22nd – Adopt a Community Day, Service Project in North Omaha
      Sign Up with Black Studies or Multicultural Affairs
Wednesday, Feb. 26th – “The Meaning of Trayvon Martin” Discussion, 5-7pm in MBSC Nebraska Room
Thursday, Feb. 27th – “Doing the Right Thing” Dramatic Performance,” 11-1pm in MBSC Dodge Room

All UNO Black History Month events are free!
For more information, visit http://www.unomaha.edu/blst/

ADL’s No Place for Hate: ADL’s No Place for Hate initiative provides schools and communities with an organizing framework for combating bias, bullying and hatred, leading to long-term solutions for creating and maintaining a positive climate. Visit their website to learn more about this amazing initiative:
http://www.adl.org/education-outreach/no-place-for-hate/.

Join GLSEN Educator Network: Sign-up to receive a monthly newsletter that highlights GLSEN’s resources and provides news and up-to-date research and policy initiatives. Join the thousands of educators across the country helping GLESEN change schools! Visit http://action.glsen.org/page/s/educator-network for details.

“The beauty of the world lies in the diversity of its people.”
 ~ Unknown
Upcoming Community Events

African Trickster Story and Craft: Saturday, Feb. 15th from 1:00pm – 3:00pm at the W. Clarke Swanson Branch of the Omaha Public Library. Listen to Trickster stories and create fun crafts for Black History Month. All ages welcome.

Whole Planet Foundation Passport Fair: Sunday, Feb. 23rd at 12:00pm at Whole Foods. At this special sampling event, you will be able to try amazing products from some of the developing countries. Stop by the welcoming table for a passport and then enjoy the samples as you travel around the store!


Id K.Brown/Evidence: Saturday, Mar 1st at 8:00pm at the Orpheum Theater. Evidence Dance Company blends traditional African dance with contemporary choreography and spoken word. For tickets to the event, visit ticketomaha.com.

Walk and Roll for Disabilities: Sunday, March 2nd at the Oakview Mall from 9:00-12:00. Visit the Meyers Foundation for Disabilities website for registration information!

Shen Yun: March 8th-9th at the Orpheum Theater. This is an extraordinary journey across 5,000 years of Chinese civilization, complete with classical dance, live orchestra, and dazzling costumes. Visit shenyunperformingarts.org for ticket information.

Ancient Order of Hibernians St. Patrick’s Day Parade: Saturday, March 15th from 10:00am-12:30pm. Visit aohsarp.com for parade route information.

Hui O Hawai’i’s Annual Luau: Saturday, Mar 22 from 5:00pm to 9:00pm at the Kiewit Fitness Center on Creighton’s campus. Attend this traditional Hawaiian luau, complete with live entertainment and refreshments!

Soweto Gospel Choir: Thursday, Mar. 27th at 7:30pm at the Holland Center – Kiewit Hall. This Grammy-winning ensemble celebrates the unique and inspirational power of African Gospel music. For more information, visit the Omaha Performing Art Center website.

The following list is by no means complete. It is our hope that you use these as suggestions for places to visit and events to participate in and then branch out on your own to find other local programs.

Chinese New Year Day Celebration: Friday, Jan. 31st from 11:00am – 3:00pm at the Omaha Children’s Museum. Learn about the culture, traditions, and customs behind the celebration of the Chinese New Year! Themed activities for kids will be held throughout the day.

Black History Month, African Designs on Craft Paper at Omaha Public Library: Saturday, Feb. 8th from 10:00am to 2:00pm and the Millard Branch. Get creative with oil pastels and create amazing designs that reflect a colorful culture. Registration is free, however space is limited. Visit omahalibrary.org/black-history-month/

Empowerment Network Community Meeting
The monthly community meeting will take place on Saturday, Feb. 8th and Saturday, March 8th both starting at 8:45 am at North High School.
UNO Criss Library
Multicultural Books

Young Adult Literature:
The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis. Because the Taliban rulers of Kabul, Afghanistan, impose strict limitation on women's freedom and behavior, eleven-year-old Parvana must disguise herself as a boy so that her family can survive after her father’s arrest. (Description via Worldcat).

North of Beautiful by Justina Chen. Terra, a sensitive, artistic high school senior born with facial port-wine stain, struggles with issues of inner and outer beauty with the help of her Goth classmate Jacob. (Description via Worldcat).

Children’s Literature:
What Color is my World? by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. While twins Ella and Herbie help the handyman Mr. Mital work on their new home, he tells them about such inventors as Granville Woods, Dr. Henry T. Sampson, and James West, giving them a new view of their heritage as African-Americans. (Description via Worldcat).

Marisol McDonald doesn’t Match by Monica Brown. A creative, unique, bilingual Peruvian Scottish-American-soccer-playing artist celebrates her uniqueness. (Description via Worldcat).

Need more resources for your classroom or school project? Please contact, Melissa Cast-Brede, Research Services Unit/Education & Psychology Liaison at mcast@unomaha.edu.

What is Diversity?
{Egg Activity for Teaching Diversity}

Visit http://kidsactivitiesblog.com/23747/what-is-diversity for the full blog post on this activity!