

Third Annual Symposium for Multiculturalism and Social Justice

Friday Evening Opening Reception: A Call to Action

"Literacy for Everyone: A Random Act of Revolution."

6:00-8:00 p.m. September 18, 2015

**D. W. Reynolds Library & Technology Center
Conference Room
Philander Smith College**

Reading has been said to be a "subversive activity" because of its potential to disrupt the status quo by provoking questions regarding how and why things are done. This questioning is considered "subversive" because it affects the ruling order. Images, words, ideas and messages are central to this continued ruling order and/or master narrative.

For 2015, we will begin the Third Annual Symposium on Multiculturalism and Social Justice with a book discussion. Focusing on Affirmation, Advocacy, and Empowerment, participants are asked to bring a book that reflects multicultural identities appropriate for K-12 students. Participants will "show" and "tell" why they chose their book. We will explore meanings and implications of having literature that reflects varied realities within classrooms for today's students. How and why are these images important? What messages, overt and covert, are being conveyed? How are Affirmation, Advocacy, and Empowerment embedded in books for today's students?

Please join us September 18, 2015, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the D.W. Reynolds Library & Technology Center at Philander Smith College for a sharing and discussion of books, literacy, and culture. Cultural competence has been defined as "helping students to recognize and honor their own cultural beliefs and practices," but teachers often do not know how to practice cultural relevant pedagogy (Ladson-Billings, 2006) or even understand the value of equity education. Members of the Symposium committee consider *content integration* (Banks, 2003) an example of a "random act of revolution" and a path to cultural relevant pedagogy by including evidence of all students' "cultural beliefs and practices" within the subject area or level under study.

For these reasons, the Symposium Committee is designating the Friday Evening Opening Reception as a **Call To Action** by asking participants to bring a book reflecting multicultural identities appropriate for K-12 students to donate to a local school. Monetary donations for book purchases are also welcome. We believe that this Action reflects each participant's ability to Perceive, Enact, and Value Justice.



**Co-Sponsored by
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