



The Holmes Partnership™

Holmes Office (414) 229-5702

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Newsletter Office (614) 253-4731

12th Annual Holmes Partnership Conference

Orlando, Florida is the setting for the 12th Annual Conference of the Holmes Partnership. Participants are arriving at the Hilton in the Walt Disney Resort as you read this newsletter. Actually, activities started earlier when many Holmes Scholars arrived for their pre-sessions beginning at noon on Thursday, January 24, 2008. The opening session of the main conference Friday, January 25, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. will be highlighted by the Judith Taack Lanier Lecture featuring our keynote speaker, Gloria Ladson-Billings. The conference will continue for the next two days, concluding at noon Sunday, January 27, 2008. This annual meeting focuses on three important areas of partnering and has been streamlined so that participants will be able to cover all of these important topics. We want to welcome everyone to this 12th National Conference and hope that you will come away inspired by the great work going on across the country. Orlando is a great place to visit with many charming attractions. We know you will want to sample the temptations nearby, but don't miss the exciting issues to be discussed inside the Hilton.

Thanks, President Thurman!

Everyone involved with the Holmes Partnership wants to say "thanks" to Dr. Alfonzo Thurman for his service as President of the Holmes Partnership. He is stepping down at the 2008 national meeting after serving one term as the leader of the Partnership. Dr. Thurman is the Dean of the College of Education at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. This institution has been a long-time member of Holmes and is one of the best examples of a true partnership. Pressing issues and commitments at home prevented Dr. Thurman from seeking another term. However, he continues to speak forcefully about the importance of the work of the Holmes Partnership. The Board will elect a new president at its meeting on January 24, 2008, preceding the annual conference. Again, "Thanks, President Thurman" for a job well done!

Spotlight on the Board

The Board of Directors of the Holmes Partnership is a diverse reflection of educators across our great nation. Over the next year, we will provide some brief biographies to introduce you to these hard-working people. In this issue, we feature Joan Smith. Dr. Smith is the Dean of the College of Education at the University of Oklahoma. She works with the Oklahoma Professional Educators Network. Joan is in her second term on the Board, having previously served as the Regional Vice-President of the South Central Region. Now, she is the at-large representative of this region. Dr. Smith provides an excellent perspective from her university in the middle of the country.

Sample the Strands

This conference is focused on three significant strands.

Strand 1: Partnering to shape policy and mobilize political will to improve teaching and learning in schools and higher education.

Strand 2: Partnering to shape P-20 educational practices and mobilizing partnerships to increase equity and access.

Strand 3: Partnering and mobilizing to shape an educational research agenda that increases equity and access.

All of these topics are important and timely. We hope that each participant will attend sessions tied to each strand. The time is right for major breakthroughs in each of these areas. Let us hope that we will carry new ideas home from this meeting to move the Holmes Partnership agenda.

In Attendance

The annual meeting of the Holmes Partnership is a unique gathering. Included are teachers and administrators from elementary, middle and high schools; researchers; union leaders; parent organization

representatives; community organizations; faculty and staff from institutions of higher education; and representatives of our national partners. This covers the entire perspective of all those interested in teaching and learning. There are few places where one can hear all the voices concerned with American education.

Don't miss the Keynote

We hope everyone will be certain to attend the opening session of the conference. After the normal introductions, the Judith Taack Lanier lecture will be presented. This is an annual keynote address named in honor of Dr. Lanier from Michigan State University, the founder and long-time leader of Holmes. This year's lecturer is Gloria Ladson-Billings. She is a Distinguished Professor of Education at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Dr. Ladson-Billings is a past president of AERA. We are certain that her remarks will be right on target with the major problems and changes ahead for all of us concerned with the preparation of teachers. The keynote address will take place Friday, January 25, 2008, at 1:30 p.m.

Scholars Job Fair

One of the special events of the Holmes Conference is the annual Job Fair and Reception of the Holmes Scholars. It will be held on Friday, Jan. 25, 2008 from 4:45 p.m.–6:15 p.m. We hope that this opportunity to have access and make connections will be utilized by all member institutions.

Pre-Session Workshops

If you have arrived early for the 12th Annual Holmes Partnership Conference, you may want to take advantage of a special opportunity. Two pre-session workshops are being offered: Action Research Mobilizing Teachers and Unpacking Educational Research. Pre-registration was required but check at the Conference Registration Desk and see if you can participate.

Teacher Leadership Breakfast

A very important part of the Holmes Partnership is the classroom teacher (K–12). On Saturday morning, we encourage all classroom teachers in attendance to be part of a special breakfast. Here, individuals will be able to connect and interact. The Teacher Leadership Breakfast will be held at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 26. Please check the schedule in your program for the location.

Signature Work

In a letter addressed to everyone involved with the Holmes Partnership, President Alfonzo Thurman recently emphasized the "Signature Work" of the organization. He listed three points that he hoped we would continue to stress.

1. Continuing to strengthen all the Holmes Scholars initiatives.
2. Conducting and publishing research on partnerships, particularly as it relates to Holmes Scholars, the reform of schools, colleges and departments of education and other issues that demonstrate the import of our work.
3. Focusing on equity and urban initiatives which will encompass the work of Unite and further advance urban partnerships.

School districts, universities and teacher associations, by uniting together, can reform the nation's schools.

We know what needs to be done and can do it by working together.

Now is the time to deliver. Our Signature Work provides the outline for success.

Saluting Cleveland State

The Holmes Partnership grants an award to a local partnership that best reflects the goals of the national body in its efforts to recognize outstanding partnerships across the nation. It is named for Dr. Nancy Zimpher, a past president of the Holmes Partnership, currently serving as the President of the University of Cincinnati. The Zimpher Award will be given this year to Cleveland State University. In partnership with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, the Euclid City School District and the East Cleveland City Schools, this university has developed a special Master of Urban Secondary Teaching (MUST) program.

The schools involved face huge challenges, including dropout rates that regularly reach 50 percent. Teacher retention statistics reveal that entry-year and early-career educators rarely remain in these urban schools. Firm data produced indicates this partnership has had an almost instant positive impact. Although it is a small program (working with 20-40 new teachers), developing math, science, social studies, English, foreign language and art teachers who want to remain in urban schools, is a major step in turning things around. MUST has become a model for all of the teacher licensure programs at Cleveland State. We congratulate them and know that this is a model that other institutions will study closely.

The Holmes Partnership™

Working to improve teaching and learning.

Transforms teaching and learning through the creation, development and expansion of university/school/community partnerships to serve the public good.

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