



REFLECTION + ACTION



FAST FACTS & WISE WORDS

“Praxis: Reflection + action upon the world in order to transform it.”

– Freire, P. (1970). *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. NY: Continuum, p. 30.



CONTENT CAFE

Dropout Prevention/Retention...

National Dropout Prevention Center

Over the years, the NDPC/N has become a well-established national resource for sharing solutions for student success. It does so through its clearinghouse function, active research projects, publications, and through a variety of professional development activities. ▶ [View site](#)

15 Effective Dropout Strategies

The National Dropout Prevention Center has identified 15 effective strategies that have the most positive impact on the dropout rate. These strategies have been implemented successfully at all education levels and environments throughout the nation. ▶ [View site](#)

Web-based Tools Used for Dropout Prevention, Summer School

"More than 1,200 schools nationwide use EdOptions' Stars Suite Web-based curriculum and assessment tools for dropout prevention, credit recovery, alternative learning, summer school and homebound programs. And while the schools do not use the program "specifically for drop-out prevention," educators explained that they use it "to help students find success in their progress, which in turn will keep them from dropping out." Maryland's Daily Times (Evans, 2/5/08) ▶ [More about Stars Suite](#)

Resiliency...

Resiliency: an innate capacity that when facilitated and nurtured empowers children, youth, and families to successfully meet life's challenges with a sense of self-determination, mastery, and hope. (Source: Ohio Federation for Children's Mental Health, Resiliency Workgroup)

Healthy Kids Resilience Module (HKRM)

The Healthy Kids Resilience and Youth Development Module (RYDM) measures the assets that researchers have consistently associated with positive youth development, school success, and health-risk behavior protection. ▶ [View site](#)

Developing Resilience in Urban Youth



EXPERTS IN ACTION

Paul Gorski

Assistant Professor,
Graduate School of
Education at Hamline
University



Paul Gorski is a consultant, conducting workshops and offering guidance to schools and educational organizations committed to equity and diversity. He serves on the board of directors of the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) and has written articles debunking Ruby Payne's work around the "Culture of Poverty". He has developed helpful tools for multicultural education, which are available on his websites listed below.

Sonnya and Talitha have been to one of his workshops recently and highly recommend him.

▶ [About Paul Gorski's Consulting Services](#)

Websites by Paul Gorski:

- ▶ [EdChange](#)
- ▶ [Social Justice Store](#)
- ▶ [Multicultural Pavilion](#)
- ▶ [Transformations Bookstore](#)
- ▶ [Multicultural Education SuperSite](#)

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CS² IN ACTION

**Fitchburg CS² Team
Presents to School
Committee on Community
Impact**

The paper outlines a research-based definition of resilience, four major protective mechanisms that foster resilience, and examples of strategies that help to build those protective processes for students. ▶ [View site](#)

Career Resilience

A report that explores resiliency theory and examines a career resiliency model from a career development practitioner perspective. ▶ [Read PDF](#)

Africentric Resiliency-Building Programs

The MAAT Center for Human and Organizational Enhancement, Inc. of Washington, DC, developed the Africentric Adolescent and Family Rites of Passage Program to reduce the incidence and prevalence of substance abuse and antisocial attitudes and behaviors by African American youths between the ages of 11.5 and 14.5 living in the District of Columbia. ▶ [View site](#)

Youth Cultural Competence (YCC)...

Youth Cultural Competence: YCC is grounded in the concept of youth development and has three major programmatic components: youth involvement, positive peer influence, and youth popular culture. (Source: <http://www.ydrf.com>)

Research and Guidelines on Online Social and Educational Networking

Calling all adults.....have you reached proficiency in MySpace and Facebook? This report by the NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION offers research on the newest competitor for young people's time: online social networking sites. Nine- to 17-year-olds report spending almost as much time using social networking services and Web sites as they spend watching TV. Many students engage in highly creative activities on social networking sites that involve skill building in communication, literacy, computer programming and problem solving.

▶ [Read PDF](#)

Media Literacy: KQED Youth Media Corps

strives to open the doors of communication and collaboration between media professionals and youth. Young people in the program develop media literacy skills to evaluate and respond to media leading to a more informed and empowered citizenry ▶ [View site](#)

Cultural Responsiveness & Multicultural Education...

Culturally Responsive Education is: Validating, Comprehensive, Multidimensional, Empowering, Transformative, and Emancipatory (Source: Gay, 2000)

Multicultural Education is: a process that permeates all aspects of school practices, policies and organization as a means to ensure the highest levels of academic achievement for all students. It helps students develop a positive self-concept by providing knowledge about the histories, cultures, and contributions of diverse groups. It prepares all students to work actively toward structural equality in organizations and institutions by providing the knowledge, dispositions, and skills for the redistribution of power and income among diverse groups. Thus, school curriculum must directly address

▶ [Read Worcester Telegram coverage from 5/6/08](#)



NEWSFLASH

Creative Thinking in the Classroom: 21st Century Workforce Skills

Learn more about the newly created Creative Challenge Index and policy development in Massachusetts to encourage creativity and job skill development.

▶ [Read Boston Globe article](#)

Closing the Teacher Quality Gap

Year after year, decade after decade, countless studies told us that on these measures, we didn't have a fair distribution of teacher talent. Minority and poor students in particular were typically taught by significantly more than their fair share of unlicensed, out-of-field, and inexperienced teachers who often didn't have records of strong academic performance themselves.

▶ [See article](#)



ON THE CALENDAR

Upcoming Grant Writing Workshops:

Founded in 1969, Associated Grant Makers, Inc. is the only regional association of grant makers, both foundations and corporations with giving programs, serving in, or making grants in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. AGM's website is a great resource for grantseekers who are looking for training and development around grantwriting, etc and common application forms.

▶ [Calendar of upcoming workshops on grantwriting](#)

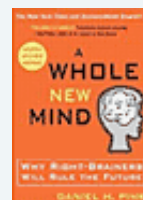
▶ [Information and deadlines pertaining to grantseekers](#)



BOOKNOOK

A Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future
(Paperback)

by [Daniel H. Pink](#)



issues of racism, sexism, classism, linguicism, ablism, ageism, heterosexism, religious intolerance, and xenophobia. (Source: <http://www.nameorg.org/resolutions/definition.html>)

The National Center for Culturally Responsive Educational Systems (NCCRESt) was funded in 2002 by the US Department of Education to close the achievement gap between diverse students and to reduce inappropriate referrals to special education. NCCRESt provides technical assistance and professional development to schools and their communities, including resources for early intervention, and culturally-responsive response to intervention. ▶ [View site](#)

Introducing the EdLib Lab

The Education for Liberation Network is a national coalition of teachers, community activists, youth, researchers and parents who believe a good education should teach people—particularly low-income youth and youth of color—to understand and challenge the injustices their communities face.

EdLib Lab is an online laboratory for experimenting with new liberatory educational materials. The EdLib Lab allows you to:

- Find educational materials on social justice topics.
- Share materials you have created.
- Comment on the contributions of others. ▶ [View site](#)

Community Partnerships...

10 Principles of Authentic Community Engagement

This report focuses on describing 10 guiding principles that are critical for achieving authentic community engagement that will re-establish the connection between schools and communities needed for more effective schools and healthier neighborhoods. ▶ [View PDF](#)

Community Partnerships and Neighborhood School Bibliography

A listing of resources running the gamut from parent engagement, to social capital, to collaborative educational leadership. ▶ [View PDF](#)

After-school: Supporting Family Involvement in Schools

"There is no debate about the fact that family involvement in schools boosts student achievement," begins the new Issue Brief from the MetLife Foundation and Afterschool Alliance. Afterschool programs are a natural way to link families and schools: Afterschool programs provide parents and schools the perfect venue to overcome these barriers to participation. ▶ [View PDF](#)

Effective Practices for Engaging Disconnected Youth in Service

Youth Service America announces a new effective practices publication entitled Effective Practices for Engaging At-Risk Youth in Service. The guide is designed to provide an overview of the underlying theory and effective practices for engaging at-risk youth in service by examining the roles young people played - and can play - in serving their communities. ▶ [View PDF](#)

Workforce Development...

Online Resources and Tools Regarding Workforce Development

Workforce³ One offers workforce professionals, employers, economic development, and education professionals a dynamic knowledge network featuring innovative workforce solutions. Online learning events, resource information, and tools help organizations learn how to develop strategies that

Review From Publishers Weekly: *Just as information workers surpassed physical laborers in economic importance, Pink claims, the workplace terrain is changing yet again, and power will inevitably shift to people who possess strong right brain qualities.*

- ▶ [View book details](#)
- ▶ [Preview book](#)

Pedagogy of the Oppressed

by *Paulo Freire*

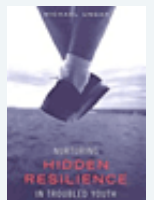


"Wherever education is explicitly involved with struggles for equity and justice, Freire's ideas and his books, especially Pedagogy of the Oppressed, will live on." - **Herbert Kohl**

- ▶ [View book details](#)
- ▶ [Preview book](#)

Nurturing Hidden Resilience in Troubled Youth

(Paperback)
by *Michael Ungar*



Book Review: *Michael Ungar's Nurturing Hidden Resilience in Troubled Youth is the first text in its field to examine resilience as a social construct; it offers a comprehensive theory of resilience and a model for the application of this theory to direct practice with high-risk youth in clinical, residential, and community settings. Timely in subject and original in perspective, Nurturing Hidden Resilience in Troubled Youth challenges what popular media refer to as a 'youth problem.'* Ungar offers an alternative approach to troubled youth and suggests that we build upon, rather than resist, their constructions of resilience as a method of effective intervention. [More>](#)

- ▶ [View book details](#)
- ▶ [Preview book](#)

enable individuals to be successful in the 21st century economy by understanding the skills and competencies needed by business and industry.

▶ [View webinars](#)

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