

Office of Cultural Diversity

Springfield Public Schools

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Diversity Terms

Stereotype

Tolerance

Prejudice

Culture

More Diversity Terms

Race

Ethnicity

Color Blind

Discrimination

Famous Poets

Maya Angelou

Antonio Machado

Langston Hughes

Pablo Neruda

The Cultural Proficiency Journey

CampbellJones, Franklin, CampbellJones, Brenda, Lindsey, Randall (2010). Corwin Press.

“The barriers to cultural proficiency are recognizable systems of historical oppression that continue to exist in the policies and practices of schools. They manifest in three distinct ways.

- **Resistance to Change – Viewing change as needing to be done by others, not by one’s self.**
- **Systems of Oppression – Acknowledging and recognizing that racism, sexism, ethnocentrism, and other forms of oppression are real experiences.**
- **A Sense of Privilege and Entitlement – A sense of privilege and entitlement arises from indifference to benefits**

that accrue solely by one’s membership in a gender, race, or other cultural group. This barrier encapsulates the practice of denying one group societal benefits, while awarding those same benefits to others.

The barriers represent the intractable issues that have historically, as well as presently, stymied broad-scale school reform intended to provide adequate and appropriate education to historically underserved cultural groups of students. Making visible and addressing equity issues previously ignored is at the heart of cultural proficiency.”

Poet Langston Hughes

“Born in Joplin, Missouri, James Langston Hughes was the great-great-grandson of Charles Henry Langston (brother of John Mercer Langston, the first Black American to be elected to public office). He attended Central High School in Cleveland, Ohio, where he began writing poetry in the eighth grade. His father would discourage him from pursuing writing as a career, in favour of something 'more practical'. Langston's tuition fees to Columbia University were paid on the grounds that he study engineering. Langston Hughes died of cancer on May 22, 1967. His residence at 20 East 127th Street in Harlem, New York has been given landmark status by the New York City Preservation Commission. His block of East 127th Street was renamed "Langston Hughes Place".”

http://famouspoetsandpoems.com/poets/langston_hughes/biography