

Office of Cultural Diversity

Springfield Public Schools

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Cultural Diversity Quiz

1. Who is the first Hispanic to have won the Pulitzer Prize?
 Oscar Hijuelos
 Isabel Allende
 Gary Soto

2. This singer helped popularize folk music and has spent a lifetime promoting nonviolence and humanitarian causes.
 Jody Baca
 Joan Baez
 Trini Lopez

3. Luis Walter Alvarez won a Nobel Prize in:
 Chemistry
 Physics
 Economics

4. Roberto C. Goizueta is credited with improving visibility worldwide and greatly increasing the stock price of what major U.S. company?
 Coca-Cola
 U.S. Steel
 CitiGroup

Providing Equal Access to “Gifted” Education”

Tyson, Karolyn (2008). *Everyday Antiracism*. The New Press.

What can “Gifted” education do for our students? “Many schools across the country have special programs designed for students who are labeled “gifted” that provide enriched instruction for students who are insufficiently challenged by the regular curriculum.” “While student test performance is a major factor in placement decisions, teachers play a pivotal role.” Nationwide most schools use some form of teacher referral or recommendation to select students for “Gifted” programs. “Being labeled “gifted” is itself a benefit and it is enhanced by enriched education. Researchers consistently find that exposure to challenging curricular materials has significant positive effects on academic achievement. Many minority and low-income students miss out on these benefits because of their systemic,

disproportionate underrepresentation in “gifted” education programs.” This could lead to animosity between and within different groups in a school. A racialized image of what achievement is and who has access to enriched classes may develop. Many low-income and minority students may not be referred for “gifted” programs because they are seen as “disruptive”. “Behaviors described as “overly social” and “showing signs of boredom” and curiosity can be reframed as indications that a child might need more challenging curricular materials.” “An important way you can address minority underrepresentation in gifted programs is to be mindful of your own thinking, about ability, aptitude, and potential. Ask yourself, “What concrete steps could you and your colleagues take to reframe how “gifted” students are

identified, or to provide “gifted” learning opportunities to students throughout the school?

Are You Prejudiced?

Do you think you are prejudiced, a little prejudiced, or not prejudiced?

How is prejudice expressed?

If you were prejudiced against a certain group, how would you treat members of that group?

If you wanted to be less prejudiced, how could you change your behavior and attitude toward others?

American Diversity: A Guide to Multicultural Education. Hayes School Publishing Co. Inc.

Quiz Answers: (1) Oscar Hijuelos, (2) Joan Baez, (3) Physics, (4) Coca-Cola