

One Voice Proposal- Preparing Students as Socially Just Citizens

Stephen E. Williams, Ed.D.

D' Youville College

Buffalo, NY 14201

Preparing Students as Socially Just Citizens: Theory, Research and Practice

The paper will begin by examining conflicting theories about human nature and development as it pertains to whether or not humans are innately disposed to pro-social, ethical and socially just conduct or whether it is a learned adaptation which evolves to suit the political, social and economic necessities of the environment. The discussion will then turn to an examination of several recent research investigations of the presenter on the topic of bullying and violence in the school. The studies include both national and international settings. Other recent and seminal research will be included an expanded discussion. The presentation will then focus on specific ways the foregoing knowledge, both theoretical and applied can be used to design school environments and curricula which fosters the optimal development of ethical awareness and sensibilities, as well as socially just behaviors in students. The role of cultural variants and teacher perceptions and attitudes will be matters of special focus in the presentation. The session will conclude with opportunities for input, criticism and questions.