

CONNECTING THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY

COUNCILgram

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DIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM OF THOUGHT LEADERS: CULTIVATING EXCELLENCE & EQUITY

By L. Oliver Robinson, Superintendent, Shenendehowa CSD

On December 8, 2017, something special and powerful occurred in education in New York State. No, it wasn't a political announcement or unveiling of a new reform measure. It was the gathering of more than 100 educators, board members and others committed to the work of transforming our schools into places where the value of each student stands alone and where diversity is embraced. THE COUNCIL'S Commission on Diversity and Inclusivity held the Diversity Symposium of Thought Leaders – Cultivating Excellence & Equity.

Across the state, there is a clear recognition and appreciation that educational leaders have the awesome responsibility of fostering an environment that is conducive to learning and pedagogical mastery. The work and leadership revolve around the simple reality that the varied needs of all students must be first and foremost to extinguish the academic gap and yield the long-hoped-for results.

WHY is this cultivating excellence and equity so important?

As Frederick Douglass so eloquently penned, “Poets, prophets and reformers are all picture-makers—and this ability is the secret of their power and of their achievements. They see what ought to be by the reflection of what is and endeavor to remove the contradiction.” CON'T / 2



This initiative is just the kind of work that needs to be happening, if public education is truly going to serve every student. I look



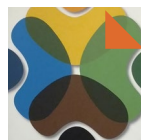
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