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EDUCATION STRATEGY

For Immediate Release

Minnesota Humanities Center Recognizes Educator Excellence Educator Teams From Across Minnesota Complete 2016 Educators' Institute

July 19, 2016—ST. PAUL, Minn.— Thirteen teams of educators from 12 school districts statewide participated in the Minnesota Humanities Center's **2016 Summer Educators' Institute: Transforming Education Through Absent Narratives**. This Institute is changing the way educators engage their students and interact with their communities with a goal of higher student achievement. Thirty-nine Minnesota educators participated in the weeklong, **Educators' Institute** held at the Humanities Center June 26-July 1, 2016; the teams included:

Cambridge ISD 911: Sara Edwards, Diane Howe, Laura Knight, and Ann Landwehr, *School For All Seasons*

Minneapolis ISD 1: Edairra McCalister, *North Community High School*

Kimberly Enck, Lindsey Pockl, and Jennifer Vaillancour, *Folwell Performing Arts Magnet*

Gwynder Burnett, *Davis Center*

Kendra Kecker, *Minneapolis Public Schools*

New Ulm ISD 88: Jan Keaveny

Osseo ISD 279: Mattia Christlieb and Jessica Stewart, *Osseo Senior High School*

Rochester ISD 535: Troy Kowalski and Erin Rahman, *Friedell Middle School*

Kristie Kinneberg and Christa McGarry, *Mayo High School*

Roseville ISD 623: Hetal Ascher and Bo Vue, *Roseville Area Middle School*

Chia Xiong, *Emmet D. Williams Elementary*

Roberta Rasmussen, *Central Park Elementary*

Derek Wilson, *Roseville Area High School*

Juanita Hoskins and Marquita Stephens, *Roseville ISD 623*

Russell-Tyler-Ruthton (RTR) ISD 2902: Paul Tuszynski, *RTR Middle/High School*

St. Cloud ISD 742: Angela Mitchell, *North Junior High School*

Joan Elton and Elizabeth Steinson, *St. Cloud ISD 742*

St. Louis County ISD 2142: Jessica Arver, *South Ridge School*

Leanne Poppenhagen, *Northeast Range*

St. Paul Public Schools ISD 742: Sarah Wellington, *Washington Technology Magnet School*

Stillwater ISD 834: Andrea Schueler, *Stillwater Area High School*

Brandon Auge, *Lake Elmo Elementary*

Michelle Deziel, Wendy Schmalz, and Mary Wisuri, *Office of Equity and Integration*

Winona ISD 861: Lora Hill and IdellAnnLarson, *Winona Senior High School*

Brandon Mehling, *Rollingstone Community School*

This professional development opportunity stressed immersive learning, strengthened relationships, new perspectives on classroom strategies, broadened worldviews, and learning from and with a community of educators and scholars. As a part of their training, these educators created action plans specific to

their districts, which express the change each educator commits to with their school district administrators, fellow educators, and students in their classrooms.

“The Institute remains the single most powerful training I have participated in and has opened the path to on-going changes in dialogue both in the classroom and with community members,” said Angela Mitchell, an educator in St. Cloud Area School District 742. “I’ve asked my Administrator if we could pursue this type of training on some level regarding developmental relationships--the seen and unseen, multiple stories, and ways of knowing—with the whole staff. She is on board. “

The **2016 Educators’ Institute** is part of the Humanities Center’s Education Strategy, which uses a humanities-based approach to closing the achievement gap. By working with educators, students, parents, and the community, the Humanities Center focuses on closing a “relationship gap” that lies beneath the achievement gap. By building strong relationships, student engagement and achievement is positively impacted.

“We all have a story; we live in stories, and it’s how we make sense of things. All of us need to be heard, recognized, and acknowledged, especially our students,” said David O’Fallon, President of the Minnesota Humanities Center. The Educator Institute strives to engage students by encouraging educators to listen and actually hear their stories.”

A summer Educators’ Institute will be offered by the Humanities Center the last week of June in 2017. For more information about the Educators’ Institute and offerings of the Humanities Center’s Education Strategy visit <http://www.mnhum.org/mned>. Download our [Education Strategy Media Kit](#).

“The Minnesota Humanities Center’s Summer Educators’ Institute was an experience that served as a refreshing source of renewal as an [urban] educator in Minnesota,” said Edairra McCalister, an educator for North Community High School in Minneapolis

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Contact at Minnesota Humanities Center:

Christi Shortridge, Communications Director, christi@mnhum.org 651-772-4251



Minnesota Humanities Center
987 IVY AVENUE EAST
SAINT PAUL, MN 55106

OFFICE : 651-774-0105
FAX : 651-774-0205
EVENT CENTER : 651-772-4242
TOLL FREE : 866-268-7293

