

Transform relationships.



Transform their world.

Professional Development Offerings 2016–17 School Year



Minnesota
Humanities
Center



EDUCATION STRATEGY

One educator at a time transforms school culture and leads to systemic change.

Educators have always been agents of change, and Minnesota Humanities Center professional development has proven results that support educators in addressing challenges in education today.

It is based on the reality that relationships are fundamental to learning and exist within cultures; it's about developing relationships, revealing unconscious biases, discovering hidden stories, and seeing children for who they really are. Educators reach inside themselves, then reach out to students to develop truly personal, honest connections.

What educators tell us they need:

- Personal growth
- Meaningful connections with students
- Networking and team building opportunities
- Tools and strategies
- Continuous engagement

Educators who participate say:

- It's professional development like no other.
- The content recalls their original reasons for teaching.
- Offerings are accessible, with flexible entry points.
- Sharing experiences and learning alongside colleagues is tremendously valuable.

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Education Strategy Outcomes

Strengthened Relationships

Increased engagement in the classroom and systemic educational change depend on one thing: relationships. Education Strategy programming **builds and strengthens relationships** that foster connection and sustain continued progress in educational equity work.

Change begins with individual transformation as educators see their students differently and build stronger, more authentic relationships. As educators continue work with our strategy, they develop communities of support among peer educators.

Broadened Worldviews

Education Strategy programming challenges educators to assess their assumptions and ways of knowing, and in doing so, recognize and value the importance of different worldviews.

As relationships deepen, educators recognize the *absent narratives*—voices often left out or marginalized—in their practice and ensure students have opportunities to **learn from and with multiple voices**.

Shared Vision & Language

Developing relationships among educators and school leadership shifts school culture to support continuous engagement with issues of equity. A shared vision and language emerges, and educators build trust and reciprocity.

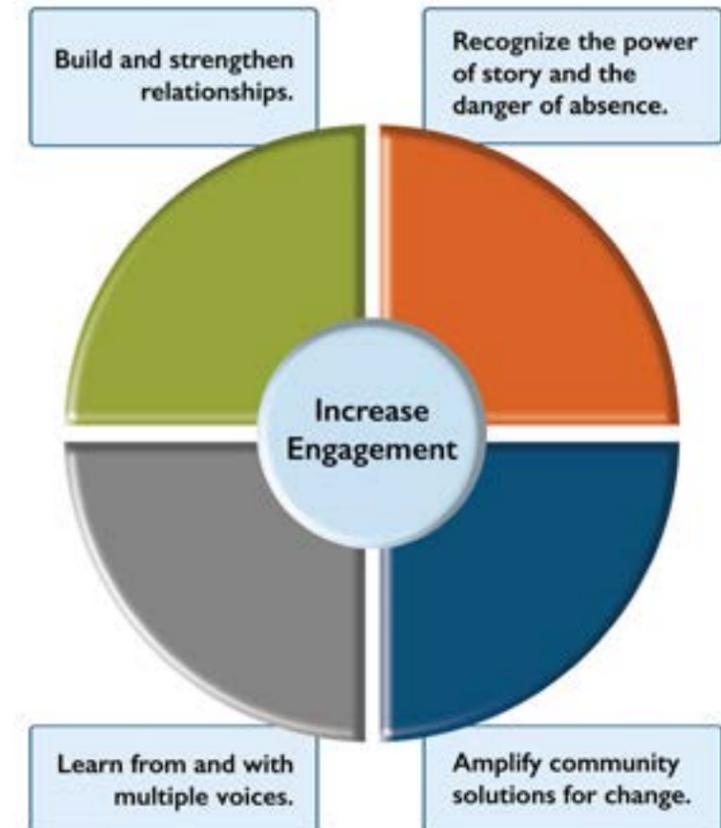
Common purpose among school staff prepares educators to effectively engage communities and **amplify community solutions** for educational change and improvement.

Student-Centered Practices & Procedures

Programming supports educators in seeing students as individuals and understanding the **power of stories** and perspectives that each one brings with them.

Through an *absent narratives* framework, educators see opportunities to develop classroom practices and procedures that center the needs and assets of each student to increase engagement and achievement at school.

Core Values



Education Strategy Impact

“It gave me a clearer understanding of what each student brings to school that negatively impacts their performance and self worth. I now feel like I have a way to better deal with these issues.”

- Motivated, inspired educators
- Confident, eager-to-learn students
- Energized, interactive classrooms
- Warm, nurturing environments
- Successful, strong schools
- Connected, hopeful communities

Increase Engagement Through Absent Narratives

www.mnhum.org/absentnarratives | www.mnhum.org/online

This foundational workshop serves as an introduction to the core strategies and concepts of the Humanities Center's approach to community engagement through *absent narratives*—voices often left out or marginalized.

Designed for people from backgrounds ranging from education to government to community leadership, workshop participants will exchange insights through personal stories, conversations, and guided reflections. While drawing upon their own experiences, participants will practice strategies that will help them engage others with respect and empathy.

- In-person workshop at the Humanities Center
- Customized in-person workshop at your location
- Online self-study course



“It is a program that can be applied to any classroom and many children. The impact it can have is immeasurable. This program totally turns your perspective around when it comes to dealing with...people, not just with kids.”



Educators' Institute

www.mnhum.org/institute

We are planning to offer a weeklong *Educators' Institute* during the last week of June 2017. This Institute provides educators with an opportunity to engage deeply with the Humanities Center's proven approach to increase student engagement through *absent narratives*.

The experience will develop classroom strategies for bringing *absent narratives* pedagogy into practice, while building a community of educators committed to relationship-based educational change in Minnesota.

- In-person workshop at the Humanities Center

“The Institute remains the single most powerful training I have participated in and has opened the path to ongoing changes in dialogue both in the classroom and with community members.”



Story Circles

www.mnhum.org/mned

In *Story Circles*, a trained facilitator guides participants through an interactive process that provides a welcoming setting to share experiences, learn from one another by listening, and build relationships.

Without barriers, participants of any ethnicity, age, gender, or religion can effectively use *Story Circles* to encourage one another—share what matters to them and seek valuable input in a safe setting. Participants will practice techniques for leading and participating in effective *Story Circles*, such as when to use a “talking piece,” and how to implement a “reflective” learning practice.

Story Circles also present opportunities to reinforce professional development strategies, share your struggles [and successes], and solve issues [offer inspiration] in a supportive group setting. Participants report that this process of sharing is a very effective communication tool that can lead to stronger classrooms, schools, and communities.

- In-person workshop at the Humanities Center
- Customized in-person workshop at your location
- Online self-study course

“I was very hesitant...but afterward felt that it was a great opportunity for our staff to bond. We needed it! It felt like we became more of a family. We gained deeper understanding of where others are coming from, and a greater appreciation for our diverse backgrounds.”



Bdote Field Trip: Dakota in the Twin Cities

www.mnhum.org/bdotefieldtrip

Spend the day visiting local sites of significance to Dakota people and learning about them from Dakota perspectives. As you experience these places, you will challenge assumptions made about Dakota history and identity and gain a deeper understanding of the significance of places like Pilot Knob, Wakan Tipi, and Mounds Park to this land's first people.

- In-person workshop departing from the Humanities Center

“Up until today I had only information books could provide. Hearing the personal stories and experiencing the sites with my own senses—it was so grounding to stand in these sacred sites—powerful to connect with history and the present.”



Immersion About Place

www.mnhum.org/mned

Communities are established with pride and dignity. Although in many instances, the residents have often been forced to coexist amidst heartbreaking challenges. In today's diverse society comprised of the indigenous, migrants, refugees, and immigrants, the phrase so often exchanged during introductions—*Where are you from?*—is no longer considered as hospitable for some, but instead offensive.

Immersion About Place allows participants to explore the history and culture of *place* by physically travelling to geographic landmarks in a specific neighborhood and by *listening* to the authentic sharing of stories that evolve directly from community voices.

A reflective process of engagement follows each *Immersion About Place* as participants convene in *circle* to share how their immersion experience may have caused them to consider operating differently in their own personal lives, with their students, with peers, and in the community.

- Customized in-person workshop at your location

I stand strong behind and alongside the work that the Humanities Center is accomplishing...I believe that the goals of the Humanities Center are actively and effectively focused on with great success, but we can do more, and we can do better with support and funding to help create a healthier and more productive society.

Hack the System with Community Solutions for Change

www.mnhum.org/mned

Imagine a world where systems are built and shaped by the communities living within them. In this session, curated environments and sensory experiences create space to excavate memories of learning, share stories and imagine seeds of change within systems.

- In-person workshop at the Humanities Center
- Customized in-person workshop at your location



Activities that engage multiple learning styles will help us connect with one another and cultivate our own pop-up community. In this community, we will practice finding balance between reflection and active creation to shape the systems that impact our daily lives and relationships.



In 2015,
50,110+
online resource
pages accessed.



Broadened Worldviews

Ways of Knowing & Being

www.mnhum.org/mned

In this session, participants are introduced to ways of knowing by unpacking the processes through which people view reality. By examining human perspectives, behavior can be better understood and investigated. Concrete examples and interactive activities will be provided to ground discussions of culture, ways of knowing, and ways of being.

The primary goals of the workshop are for participants to identify their own ways of knowing, acknowledge that everyone has a way of knowing, and recognize dominant and marginalized ways of knowing in the United States.

- Customized in-person workshop at your location

Understanding people's stories really makes a difference in relationship...Cultural differences in lifestyle are so important to hold up to create tolerance and acceptance in communities. I feel like I am just at the tip of the iceberg with my learning.



Absent from What? Observations on Dominant Culture

www.mnhum.org/mned

Certain stories dominate discourse in America, reinforcing some identities and rendering others invisible in public. What are those "master" narratives and how do they originate and operate? Given an environment where certain narratives dominate, how do we go about including and valuing absent narratives in schools and public settings? This offering examines how the inclusion of these narratives can help change the dynamics of our educational system as a whole.

Martin Case of *Allies: Research & Writing* will present and lead a discussion that invites participants to reflect on "master" narratives and articulate the often unstated assumptions that shape public education in America.

- Customized in-person workshop at your location

Imagine if every child in Minnesota grew up having learned what tribal sovereignty is...Together, we can work to educate a new generation of Minnesotans who understand basic important facts about Minnesota's tribal nations.



Inclusive Science

www.mnhum.org/mned

When most people think about science, they often only think about Western science. Science, however, is more than just Western knowledge and its production. Many varieties of science exist, which reflect the diverse knowledge systems from which they originate.

Presentation and discussion will help participants explore different ways of knowing and multiple ways to arrive at truth. Participants will also examine the ways in which Western science has been privileged while other forms of science have been marginalized and excluded.

- Customized in-person workshop at your location



The Abolitionist Movement

www.mnhum.org/online

This offering introduces the *absent narrative* of African Americans working and forging an identity and movement, which shaped the political ideas, landscape, and legislation in the post-Revolutionary period.

Participants will learn an integrated view of African American history during this period and will be able to demonstrate the contributions of African American activists in influencing the expansion of freedom and liberty in America. Participants will understand how this distinctly American group shaped its own identity and worked to expand equality and opportunity.

- Online self-study course

As an educator of 29 years, I find the information and training I have received from the Minnesota Humanities Center priceless. The information and training I take back immediately to my classroom and my teaching practices. The awareness of all the rich history in the different cultures has only increased the richness of my curriculum.

Black Independent Institutions in the Revolutionary Era

www.mnhum.org/online

This offering amplifies the *absent narrative* of a people fighting alongside their white counterparts and forging a new identity through the emergence of Black Independent Institutions.

Participants learn an integrated view of African American history during this period, and will be able to demonstrate the contributions of African Americans activist in influencing the expansion of freedom and liberty in America. Participants will understand how this distinctly American group shaped its own identity and worked to expand equality and opportunity.

- Online self-study course



Student-Centered Practices

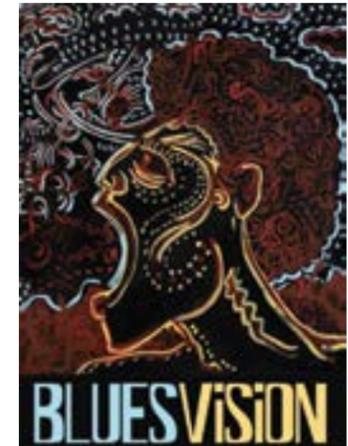
Using *Blues Vision* in the Classroom

www.mnhum.org/blues

This offering prepares participants to have meaningful engagement with students through a deeper understanding of African American experiences and the black literary tradition in Minnesota. The two-day workshop takes *Blues Vision: African American Writing in Minnesota* as the starting point for rigorous discussion and activities that cultivate practical strategies for using texts from the book as catalysts for change and conversation in the classroom.

Educators will receive supplementary resources, strengthened relationships with colleagues and authors, and a copy of *Blues Vision* as part of this experience.

- In-person workshop at the Humanities Center
- Customized in-person workshop at your location



Veterans' Voices Workshop for Educators

www.mnhum.org/vetsed

This workshop provides resources and professional development to support educators in bringing the missing stories of Veterans, military service members, and military families into their classroom.

Through literary selections, authentic stories, and an immersive experience, participants will come away with a deeper understanding of the culture and impact of military service, as well as strengthened relationships with colleagues and *Veterans' Voices* content.

- In-person workshop in Greater Minnesota

I think that was the difference [with the Humanities Center]—something that when you go home you really want to talk to people about because it's a new way of thinking that you want to share with people.

Go Deeper: Absent Narratives Concepts in Theory & Practice

www.mnhum.org/institute

These sessions offer *Educators' Institute* participants an opportunity to return to concepts and ideas introduced during the *Educators' Institute*. Scholars will guide deeper engagement with their content offerings, while providing time for cohorts to work together and share in communities of practice. Sessions may include topics like *Mnisota, a Dakota Place; Ways of Knowing and Being; Narrative Strategies*; and *Absent from What?*

- Webinar

The impact of this cohort... affected my relationships with my colleagues, staff, parents, families, and most of all my students. I think the change in relationship happened when I perceived viewpoints from myself, and viewpoints I learned about the population of students I teach.



The Power of Narrative & Re-telling for Change

www.mnhum.org/mned

How do we find narrative? It is in everything but often invisible until we ask it out. To many indigenous people, narrative is the prime methodology that drives philosophy, education, everything.

Through discussion and guided writing exercises, participants learn to recognize and create narrative using art, history, and literature as prompts. In addition, participants will explore ways to share and invite narrative from others.

- Customized in-person workshop at your location



African American History in Minnesota

www.mnhum.org/online

This offering introduces educators to the rich history of black Americans in the North Star State, from the days of the early 19th-century fur trade to the modern Civil Rights Movement of the mid-20th century. Participants will learn the stories of African American individuals, events, and movements in Minnesota, told against a backdrop of contextual U.S. history, and will understand how the African American population built communities and fought for equality in Minnesota and on the national stage.

The online course includes downloadable primary-source activities for the classroom, video clips, and a comprehensive list of resources.

This offering was created through a partnership between the Humanities Center and the Minnesota Historical Society.

- Online course

“Why is this work important? Offering teachers updated materials that focus on multiple means of engagement, expression and representation...in order to improve learning outcomes, is essential work that benefits students.”



Shared Vision & Language

Build the Network: Reconvening Educators' Institute Cohorts

www.mnhum.org/institute

Participants from the 2015 and 2016 *Educators' Institute* cohorts will come together for a weekend reconvening at the Humanities Center to discuss progress on action plans and focus on developing a statewide support network of educators committed to relationship-based educational change.

- In-person workshop at the Humanities Center



Communities of Practice

www.mnhum.org/mned

In a series of customized engagements, groups of educators will come together to refine and revisit what they have learned in professional development offerings and assess how it is working in an applied setting. *Communities of Practice* offers guided opportunities to continuously engage with *absent narratives* concepts and strategies, while building a network of support among colleagues dedicated to relationship-based educational change.

Sessions employ a variety of methods to respond to participant needs, including: facilitated discussions, mentor-led activities, collaborative work sessions, and more.

- Customized in-person workshop at your location

“I have been personally and professionally transformed...I am currently in a Cohort to actively deepen my commitment with my peers and colleagues to equitably educate each and every student every day.”





“ Humanities Center beliefs, values, and strategies can transform a school. ”



Research shows that educational change is most effective when it is sustained, embedded, and shared within schools and systems. Through an ongoing partnership with the Omaha Public Schools, the Humanities Center has a rich case study of what is possible when this relationship-based Education Strategy is supported and implemented at the school and district level.



To discuss how this may be possible in your Minnesota community, contact Casey DeMarais.
casey@mnhum.org | 651-772-4278



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