EDUC 709 - Diversity and Equity in Educational Administration

**Proposal for the “What does a Diverse and Equitable 21st Century Education Look like?” project**

By Shine Nissar

**Topic** - Increase Enrollment and Access to Preschool for Latino/a Children in the Coachella Valley

**Description –** I will engage in a dialogue with a group of parents whose children are currently enrolled in the Head Start preschool program of PSUSD about the crisis of reduction in enrollment in preschool programs of Latina/o children. I will inform, educate and empower Latino and Hispanic parents share this information and increase the enrollment and access of preschool education. I will produce a 10 minute video that highlights the crisis of low enrollment in Pre-K education of Latina/os.

**Research** – The reason I chose this topic is because according to the research, the enrollment of Latino children in preschool programs are less when compared to non-Hispanic white children.

**Goal** – My goal is to inform, educate and empower parents to be the change agents in Coachella Valley and take action to increase the enrollment of Head Start preschool of Latino and Hispanic children. I will be facilitating the discussion about equality and equity in education, diversity and social justice in Head Start Preschool programs.

**Intended Audience** – A parent group that attends a 12 week school readiness program that strengthens the leadership and advocacy skills of parents with children ages 0 to 5 at PSUSD. The title of the program is *Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors.*  The curriculum is evidence-based and focuses on popular education and draws on the real life experiences. The parent groups on Thursday evenings from 6-8pm at the Early Childhood Education (ECE) office at Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD).

**Relevance to educational equity and diversity in Inland Empire** – According to Mr. Ilbanez said, “It is our responsibility to educate parents about the importance of sending their children to Head Start preschool so that they can share with other families.” It was a rewarding experience to meet Mr. Ilbanez, trainer of Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors Mr. Bractzo Ibanez. Mr. Ibanez completed this training in Texas when he was chosen at a National Head Start conference. Mr. Ilbanez is a parent of two children who attended the Head Start program in the past. He shared that because of his passion to educate other parents of the benefits of Head Start preschool he served on the Parent Policy Council (PPC). He was elected as the President of PPC for the ECE program of PSUSD. I want to empower my audience by informing and also getting them involved in taking action to be agents of change in our community the Coachella Valley.

**Produce a 10-minute video on your issue/topic – In** addition to what the literature says about the low enrollment of Hispanic and Latino children attending Head Start preschool programs , I will be facilitating the discussion and record the responses as well as compile narratives and anecdotal notes of our conversations. Finally, I will compile a 10 minute video of my findings.

**Identify an outcome –** I will ask my audience the following question and take notes.

How will you support to increase the access and enrollment of preschool for Hispanic and Latino Children in Head Start preschool programs in Coachella Valley? What will you do tomorrow/during this week as a result of our discussion?

**How will you know if you achieved your desired outcome? What is the outcome/evidence?**

I will follow up and do a post discussion in a week to see what parents had done in taking action.

**How you will be evaluated on final project? How does your topic relate to education in the Inland Empire/Southern California? What does your topic mean for equity? What does your topic mean for educational leadership?**

My topic has an impact in the Coachella valley, Inland Empire, our state as well as our nation. I will be addressing equity by reaching out to the people who need the information most and empower them to take action. Our topic addresses access of education for Pre-K to Higher Education of Immigrant students in the Coachella Valley as addressed in our original group video. Educating all students which includes immigrant students is my responsibility as an Early Childhood Educational Leaders. Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) is a right and not a privilege…