

Greetings from the MCNC Director

Hope all of you are enjoying your summer. Congratulations to all our recent high school graduates and also, all of you, for persisting and thriving as best as possible during this past school year!

Although we were unable to meet in-person for our annual MCNC Summer Professional Development (PD) Institute, I was happy to see many of your faces through our recent 'virtual' conference that was held on June 16 and 17, 2pm to 6pm EST with the theme: *Preparing for Going Back to School in a Post-Pandemic World*.

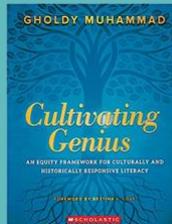
I would like to acknowledge and thank Tony Hoffmann and Celia Bratt from our MCNC staff for successfully preparing and setting up the CVENT platform site used to host our virtual conference, and our MCNC executive team of Mattie Adams Robertson, Terry Born, and Susan Doyle for their thoughtful planning and outreach. I would also like to thank all our workshop/roundtable presenters who enthusiastically offered their expertise and time. Thank you to all our conference attendees for contributing your ideas to our MCNC community. I am pleased to share that we had 200 registrants for our Summer PD Institute, and many newcomers; and based on our post-conference survey, 95% of the respondents rated the institute, holistically, as 'Good' or 'Excellent.' Lastly, thank you to all our member school leaders who collaborated and coordinated with us for the conference and throughout the year.

I hope you enjoy reading the Summer PD Institute highlights in this month's newsletter and that you also enjoy your summer! For our monthly newsletters and other news, visit our [MCNC website](#). Connect again soon!



Finding New Ways to Support Student Engagement After The Trauma of COVID (Keynote, MCNC Summer PD Institute)

Carlton Jordan (Education Coach & Consultant), in collaboration with Cece Cunningham (MCNC Director), introduced Dr. Gholdy Muhammad's book, *Cultivating Genius*. Keynote attendees then explored and discussed the potential distinction between 'critical thinking' and 'criticality' in breakout groups by examining a literary movie clip through a 'criticality' lens — *What changes or happens through this lens? How can such conversations contribute to a student's sense of self in relation to literary pursuit?*



Historically Responsive Literacy Model

The 4 Goals or Pursuits	As teachers think of these 4 pursuits in their HRL instruction, they should ask themselves...
1. Literacy as IDENTITY	How will my instruction help students to learn something about themselves and/or others?
2. Literacy as SKILLS	How will my instruction build students' skills for the content area?
3. Literacy as INTELLECT	How will my instruction build students' knowledge and mental powers?
4. Literacy as CRITICALITY	How will my instruction engage students' thinking about power, equity and disruption of oppression?

Source: Gholdy Muhammad, *Cultivating Genius* (2020 Chapter 2 Excerpt). http://teacher.scholastic.com/education/reachteach/pdfs/cg_ch2.pdf

Engaging and Supporting our Schools Through MCNC Community (Excerpt from the MCNC Director's Welcome, MCNC Summer PD Institute)

"Last May, when it became clear that we would have to cancel our annual Summer PD Institute, MCNC strategized activities to help sustain our MCNC community. It was particularly important to find ways to support our schools during this unprecedented school year of virtual/hybrid learning. Therefore, we framed our activities to support our schools through MCNC community engagement. We tracked each connection that was established with schools and are pleased to report that 100% of our member schools responded to at least one outreach, 73% participated in at least two or more activities, and almost half presented at an MCNC event or contributed to our newsletters."

During the 2020-21 school year of virtual and hybrid learning...

MCNC Goal:
To provide an ongoing **MCNC COMMUNITY** to engage and support MCNC member schools and leaders.

Planned and organized weekly via the MCNC Executive Team.



Providing MCNC Community During the 2020-21 School Year

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| 1. Voices from MCNC schools around the country | Monthly MCNC newsletters |
| 2. Safe space and outlet for MCNC principals | Quarterly MCNC principal meetings |
| 3. Relevant PD opportunities for MCNC school staff | Annual MCNC Conferences; PD sessions |
| 4. Leadership development for MCNC students | Annual MCNC student conference/initiative |
| 5. Encouragement/Listening ear for MCNC school leaders | Ongoing check-in emails and phonecalls |
| 6. Resources for MCNC school communities/partners | MCNC Graduating Student Survey; news |

