

Post-secondary SIG Meeting/Presentation: Discussing Issues of Diversity at Post-secondary Institutions

Date: October 15, 2016

Place: UM Flint, MI

SIG leader: Cynthia Macknish, EMU

Number in attendance: 22+

Summary of 2015 Session: The format of this meeting/presentation was well received in 2015 so it was repeated this year. In terms of communication, participants argued that with increased workloads and other commitments, this SIG was not high priority, and they did not have time for more input. They were satisfied with current levels of communication in this SIG.

2016 Session Overview: Current topics relevant to the conference theme and post-secondary institutions were identified. SIG leader gave a brief summary of relevant literature, before small (self-selected) groups formed to discuss a chosen issue in more depth. Groups shared highlights and ways to stay informed and make voices heard.

Current Issues 2016:

1. LGBT learners' needs in English classes
2. Safe Spaces & Trigger Warnings vs. Academic Freedom
3. English language development in mainstream classrooms
4. Preparing teachers as ESOL advocates
5. Limited L2 & peer corrective feedback
6. Anxiety in L2 classrooms
7. Enrollment & immigration
8. Teacher preparation: NCLB-ESSA

Suggestions for Staying Informed of Issues:

- Read about issues in blogs & publications
- Discuss issues with colleagues - live or on social media
- Join organizations & advocate for your students
- Let SIG leader know of anything you'd like to share with SIG members & she will disseminate

Feedback:

- Some participants preferred the whole group discussion, while others liked the opportunity to break into groups. Continue to do both.
- Some participants thought there were too many topics to choose from for the small group discussion. Next time reduce the number.
- Participants appreciated opportunities to share what was going on in their institutions.
- Participants liked having the bibliography.