



News Brief - A Special Issue
SOE STUDENTS' REFLECTIONS
School of Education

"I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better." – Maya Angelou

December 2022

Issue 6

SUNY Old Westbury
School of Education

Presents ...



Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education

**Centering the Brilliant Lives of Our Youth: Making
NYSED's CR-S Framework Real in the Classroom.**

Dr. Jevon D. Hunter is the Woods-Beals Endowed Chair for Urban Education and Interim Associate Dean for the School of Education at SUNY Buffalo State. As an award-winning scholar, his interests and engagement are principally collaborative, partnering with youth, their teachers, and others to envision and implement new forms of learning and instruction so our young people can shine in school and life.

Wednesday, November 2, 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

In-Person on Campus-233 Store Hill Rd, Old Westbury, NY 11568

Room: Multi-Purpose Room in the Student Union

About Dr. Hunter...

Jevon D. Hunter, Ph.D. is the Woods-Beals Endowed Chair for Urban Education and Interim Associate Dean for the School of Education at SUNY Buffalo State. He is an award-winning literacy justice educator whose work centers the lived and living experiences of African, African descended, Latinx, and urban youth. His interests are principally collaborative, having partnered with numerous schools, school districts, and educational organizations across the United States to share the benefits of Culturally Relevant Education, Antiracist Education, and other asset-based, liberatory instructional and curricular frameworks. He uses these frameworks along with teachers to intentionally design activities, lessons, and units of study that engage young people in emancipatory, restorative, and liberating literacy practices that center their voices, experiences, and expertise. A sought-after speaker and trainer, Dr. Hunter works side-by-side with prospective, pre-service, and in-service teachers, as well as other educators to envision and implement new forms of learning and instruction so our young people can shine in school and life.

Dr. Jevon Hunter Amplifies the Power of Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education

Written by, Dr. Nicole Sieben



On November 2, 2022 Dr. Jevon Hunter delivered a talk on Culturally Responsive-Sustaining (CR-S) Education titled, “Centering the Brilliant Lives of Our Youth: Making NYSED’s CR-S Framework Real in the Classroom” to a packed room of pre-service and in-service teachers, professors, administrators, staff members, and undergraduate and graduate School of Education students. During the hour and half presentation, Dr. Hunter engaged attendees in critical conversations about the academic, cultural, and sociopolitical pillars of Culturally Responsive Pedagogy, grounded and conceptualized in the work of Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings. First detailing the three key concepts of Culturally Relevant Pedagogy as Dr. Ladson-Billings has examined in her work, Dr. Hunter then took attendees through the application of this work as the NYSED CR-S Framework calls on us to do as teachers of young people. The NYSED CR-S is an asset-based framework that focuses on student-centered learning initiatives that are intended to be a true collaboration between teachers, students, administrators, policy makers, and communities and families.

Through the sharing of 3 model unit plans across educational content areas and levels, Dr. Hunter evidenced for attendees exactly how this framework can be put into practice in the classroom for and with students by using Critical Inquiry Projects (CIP) in meaningful ways. Dr. Hunter detailed how using CIPs “affords youth the opportunity to critically examine an experienced or recognized injustice from their lived social realities” and gives teachers a tool with which to “blend academic knowledge with critical and social awareness.” In this way, teachers engage the third key concept of Ladson-Billings’ CRP, sociopolitical consciousness, which is one aspect of the CRP that Hunter stated is often missed in the classroom. Using a Critical Inquiry Model that includes 7 principles, Dr. Hunter shared that this approach is designed to interrupt deficit thinking about the communities our students grow up in and love, and instead focuses on asset-based frameworks.

With the final example unit he shared, Dr. Hunter asked attendees to participate in one aspect of the unit by creating their own critical micropoetry using a formula that emulates the haiku style and structure of a poem. Alongside colleagues in the SOE, we each wrote our own SUNY Old Westbury Educator-Ku, and then volunteers shared their original poems in a Micropoetry Slam that Dr. Hunter facilitated. As someone who both shared my own poem and listened to others’ poems, I appreciated the power of the assignment and the social justice goals articulated by educators across our School of Education and the college writ large. In his closing remarks, Dr. Hunter asked us each to reflect on the presentation and our engagement with the material he shared. Attendees were asked to write about something from the

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presentation that they plan to *use*, *share* with a colleague, or *learn* more about. This news brief highlights the students' reflections sharing what they learned from this interactive presentation.

Finally, Dr. Hunter concluded his talk with the words of Ruha Benjamin, "Let's remember to imagine and craft the worlds we cannot live without, just as we dismantle the worlds we cannot live within." And, as a life-long learner and educator for social justice, I believe this is a powerful place to start and continue on in this work together.

SOE Student Teachers' Reflections

When my soul whispers "educator" to me, I have a gentle smile flirting on my cheek and I said, "Yes I am"! Tonight's conference built up more certainty for me in this endeavor. My literacy professor, Dr. DiMarco teaches us to get to know our students and their culture. She taught us that knowing someone's culture and their knowledge of your culture will bring us around the table of understanding and inclusion quickly. What I learned tonight further emphasized Dr. DiMarco's teaching. Some of my take-aways from the presentation were to "strive to be culturally sustaining for centering the identities of all students in classroom instruction," and to "provide opportunities for students to critically examine topics to power privilege." I strongly believe these two will be my center point as a beginner teacher. I thank the SOE for this opportunity. MJSS

I thought that Dr. Hunter's presentation was one in a million. Truly a motivating and moving example of how teachers should be teaching as we go into a more inclusive, diverse, and accepting world that us as teachers are coming into. I loved his examples of getting students involved in THEIR education, like when he spoke about the poems that he wrote with the Buffalo students. That part of the presentation was something that touched me because school is a safe haven for students no matter the background, race, religion, or sexual orientation. That display of listening from the educators' perspective allowed for the students to feel heard and safe in how they spoke and the topics they were writing about. Overall, I had an amazing time listening to Dr. Hunter speak about education and definitely came away with ideas and applicable strategies that I can take with me in the future. CR

Today's guest speaker event was very informative for me. I learned new, innovative ways to engage my students into learning. I learned the importance of making my lessons relevant to student's interests, for example, tying in social media, music, sports, and fashion to make my lessons engaging. I also learned the importance of connecting the content that students are learning to their own lives. This will help them learn more and find more interest in the content and also their own culture, community, and self. During this presentation, there was an emphasis on allowing students to elevate their own voices. I love the idea of having students share their work on a larger scale, and was incredibly impressed to see all of the work of the students from Buffalo. I am excited to incorporate these techniques and ideas into my own classroom! DL

I got to attend CRS education lecture tonight! I just want to start off by saying "Wow"! As a current student teacher, I feel like this lecture was very eye opening. Some topics that were talked about made me reflect on my own teaching and how I can better my students' education. I learned the importance of having student-based lectures and how to get them more involved in a classroom. I also learned some different techniques that can be used to make the students want to be more involved in lessons when discussing certain topics, as well as more interested in some topics that they need to learn about during their education career. The lecture tonight was very informative, and I enjoyed every moment of it. Thank you! GA

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Reflecting on the seminar, I grasped new unique ways to positively impact students' lessons by intertwining their interests, standards, and correct representation of cultures. What was different about this seminar compared to others is that it was not just lecture-based, but modeled how to keep students' interested throughout the presentation. One factor of the presentation that stood out was the students' shared work, demonstrating the true success by truly representing history, cultures, and standards in one bundle. The question regarding the seminar is how I would include the unique technology used in the lesson for younger grades, such as first grade. The use of technology in lessons, such as the "Netflix" bibliography project, was truly inspiring and authentic to what the students relate to. Along with this, the culturally responsive representation highlighted positivity rather than the negativity that comes

with inequality. Thus, providing solutions while understanding the oppression that many groups face within the curriculum and historical representation. EB

What an amazing presentation from Dr. Hunter! I was so engaged and took away so much on how to revamp my lesson planning and relate to our students with modern interest. I realized as a teacher of color, I need to show my representation through different cultural authors, people in history and writing of students' background to see where we all come from. I enjoyed greatly the Netflix template in creating engaging and still being connected to curriculum standards. This is what changes and grows our students' minds! Thank you, Dr. Hunter.

I am so grateful to have been a part of the seminar yesterday. The poems created from area codes were something that I would have never thought to do before, and it was so much fun. I think the kids would really have a lot of fun with that. The combination of creativity and learning to better approach the topics that might have been difficult for them to understand and put into words is phenomenal and so important. Thank you for the opportunity! AL

After listening to tonight's presentation and thinking for a little bit, what I took from this presentation was that as teachers we have a duty to create lessons that empower students on a daily basis. One of the ways that I plan on empowering my students daily is by giving them a voice as part of the lesson by providing opportunities for them to work on in class projects that highlight issues that are important to them. Another thing that I took from tonight's seminar is that it is important how we choose what to show or not show students in the curriculum. It is important to show the stories of all people and groups, so that students can learn more about the history that is not traditionally talked about in the classroom. JPC

Tonight's lecture on culturally responsive education brought many things to light that I had not thought of before. We were given a great speaker who had me actively engage from the start to finish of his lecture. There are many take aways from tonight's lecture, such as the need for us as teachers to embrace what students like to engage themselves in outside of school, rather than to dismiss them when they bring up certain topics. I also was able to collect a lot of fun ideas that I would like to do in my classroom in the future. I hope my fellow classmates, like myself, were pleased with the speaker and were able to take something into the future classrooms. GR

I am emailing you regarding tonight's seminar which I found to be fascinating and have gained so much knowledge from Dr. Hunter's *Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education* seminar. He brought up topics that I feel are important to discuss and shed light on as future educators. He also provided us with new tools on how

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to help encourage our future students to become more engaged in learning for them to be able to shine in and outside of school. The one thing that I was truly impressed with was the Netflix assignment that he demonstrated. That was amazing and I can see myself using this with my students. I am truly happy that I attended this session. BV

I learned the importance of student involvement while utilizing the Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education (CR-S) Framework in the Classroom. It is essential to allow and create an environment and a classroom that provides student involvement while also establishing acceptance throughout the entire classroom and the students' overall school experience. It is also essential to establish learning that involves and makes youth and children have a voice and make their voice shine which CR-S establishes. Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education allows students to use their own identity. They learn using aspects of their race, social class, language, nationality, or religion. Students' learning experience isn't only about learning in a textbook, or just listening to their teacher speak for the entire day, but as it was mentioned in the workshop it is crucial and essential to give students an opportunity for them to explore more in-depth what represents them, what makes them, them, overall their identity. Although it is highly critical to be careful in the way it is taught and established because curriculum violence can be created which is real and damaging. EP

During my time with the guest speaker, I learned a lot from him. I didn't even know what Culturally Responsive Education was until the guest speaker explained what it was. It is very important to have the students have their own freedom to speak their truth and be heard when it comes to what they worked on. It was also very interesting how much technology has changed in the classroom. It was so nice to see how the 8th graders did their own Netflix project to explain the American Revolution. It was also very interesting to see the students understand the importance of identity, nationality, race, sexuality, social class, and native language. It was insightful to hear what the guest speaker had to say about culturally responsive education. AA

One take-away from this informative evening is that being culturally responsive isn't just discussing race and/or racism. To be culturally responsive is to unlock the nature of our students. This nature is where they are, what they do, what they eat, traditions, ceremonies and festivals, clothing, language and so much more. Teachers must immerse themselves into what makes a student who they are. This knowledge will provide a more direct path for how to teach my students as they need and deserve to be taught and will also provide a more direct path to a brighter future for each child. CP

I found Dr. Hunter's presentation to be very informative and interesting. What stuck out to me most was the lesson on the Indigenous People in Western New York. I think it is very important that we change the way we introduce and represent groups of people so that is respectful and correct. In addition to this, I enjoyed Dr. Hunter's use of real examples from students. Overall, this was a great presentation. KA

Today's seminar was very insightful. The message I got from this seminar is that we as educators need to be conscientious of how we are culturally responsive in our classroom. With this, we need to make these topics meaningful for our learners. With that being said, educators need to do this in a way where the students will not feel trauma from these topics. When Dr. Hunter mentioned those teachers teaching in unjust ways, it was disheartening to hear. The presentation where he showed the Netflix clips was very interesting and I would love to try that in my future classroom. JV

I have learned so much from Dr. Jevon Hunter's presentation tonight. I can't wait to use all the information I now know in the classroom! I will be looking at the CR-S Framework throughout my teaching career. I enjoyed seeing the student examples and how this can be done! It was a great presentation. Thank you so much! GS

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I believe what I got out of the presentation today was important to my growth as a future educator. Learning things about youth and student life are important factors in what it means to teach this generation. Being able to reflect on the world around us and make sure the good things are implemented into the classroom and for the negatively to be left at the door. I very much enjoyed listening to Dr. Hunter! VC

I learned that it is imperative to get rid of the old lesson plans and implement new updated lesson plans that relate to the students. Teachers need to bring the joy back to learning by implementing new lessons where they are incorporating students' interests, culture, and what is culturally relevant to the times we are in, like different social media platforms, music, fashion, etc. I really enjoyed seeing the Netflix biography assignment. I could tell from the work that was presented, students put their best efforts forth in this assignment because it was something they could relate to, and they enjoyed it. By using different platforms that students can relate to and implement it into our lessons, student engagement and participation will increase. I thought the Netflix assignment was very unique and inspirational. I also learned how important it is to make a culturally inclusive classroom, where students can learn about their peers' cultures and where they can relate to one another. It creates a welcoming classroom environment. NVM

I want to start out by saying how important those seminars are for future educators. I thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and found the topic being discussed a sensitive issue that educators need to understand how to navigate. Regardless of student body, old school curricula should be met with a newer mindset. Often in the educational world, sensitivity to today's cultural differences and difficulties are overlooked. This seminar focused on promoting joy instead of focusing on oppression, which some curricula tend to have an undertone of. I found the speaker to be very engaging and his presentation generated many new ideas throughout the crowded room. Thank you for a wonderful seminar! AF

I am TC, a student teacher in The School of Education at SUNY Old Westbury. I just attended the event, Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education, presented by Dr. Jevon D. Hunter, thank you for bringing such a relevant and important seminar to our campus! Dr. Hunter was an exceptional speaker and a pleasure to learn from. As requested, below is my reflection of the event. The seminar "Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education" presented by Dr. Jevon D. Hunter was an exceptional learning experience, especially for the upcoming teachers at SUNY Old Westbury. Dr. Hunter explained the importance of translating the guidelines noted in the NYSED CR-S Framework into real-life lessons with our students. One example of how to foster culturally responsive-sustaining education was Dr. Hunter's Critical Inquiry Projects. The student examples of Critical Inquiry Projects demonstrated how motivated and brilliant our students become when they are provided the opportunities to critically examine topics that align

culturally with their daily lives. Overall, Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education presented by Dr. Jevon D. Hunter enlightened the student teachers at SUNY Old Westbury to how they may begin developing lessons and classroom cultures that embrace culturally responsive and sustaining education. Thank you again for the opportunity to be a part of such an important discussion! I look forward to implementing these concepts throughout my student teaching experience and as a future teacher.

After this workshop, I learned that in order to be a successful educator, we have let our students express themselves. Teachers must also be sensitive to their cultural identities when planning lessons and implementing instruction. Teachers should allow students multiple outlets of cultural expression for them to make sense of the world around them and to build empathy for others. Lastly, I learned that social justice can be fostered in the classroom if teachers allow their students to express their culture in ways that could help foster school-wide, and hopefully larger scale, forms of change. AS

I found tonight's presentation very informative. Not only did I learn ways to incorporate more pedagogical ideas into the classroom, I also saw descriptive examples that were fascinating. The social media ideas and the youth conference were wonderful. Overall, it was excellent. MA

Reflecting on today's seminar, I found the presentation to be very informative and engaging. One part that stood out to me was to not be afraid to uphold culturally responsive learning. This taught me that as a teacher, if fellow teachers or parents might feel uncomfortable with me educating students on topics that they might feel are controversial, as long as it is supported by the NYSED culturally responsive guidelines, I should provide my students with the best quality education I can. I also was really impressed by the example of using Netflix slides as a project for students in social studies class. I like how this was an inquiry-based activity and made students accountable of their own learning. Also, in this project, students were able to blend creativity with their research. This was also a great use of technology and something I wish to incorporate in my future classroom as well. The Buffalo-ku's were also very impressive. I appreciate how it brought student's thoughts and experiences to the focal point of the lesson. This allows students to feel heard and be able to picture their place in their own communities, which is so important for young adults. I am currently student teaching in a first-grade classroom, and I would love to modify this activity so that my students are able to write their own haikus. Overall, today's seminar was very engaging, and I hope I'm able to attend another one of Dr. Hunter's seminars in the future. AC

After attending the guest speaker seminar in replacement of Monday's class, I found that the guest speaker, Dr. Jevon D. Hunter was very informative towards expanding the cultural awareness of his audience. Dr. Hunter shared valuable information with the group in attendance regarding the CR-S Framework speaking about Culturally Relevant Pedagogy. Dr. Hunter touched upon Academic Achievement, Cultural Competence, and Sociopolitical Consciousness in which he provided his audience with several applications to which these three key concepts can be integrated into the classroom. These concepts have the ability to enhance our youth's cultural understandings of the various communities, identities, etc. that they are encouraged to explore through the curriculum. Dr. Hunter addressed the term Curriculum Violence which I felt was necessary to explore given that in today's society, this term is still widely experienced in many classrooms nationally and globally. To become more culturally responsive in an appropriate manner and delve further into the cultural expansion aspect of education, Dr. Hunter's explanation of critical inquiry can help one deepen their comprehension of these topics. The critical inquiry projects Dr. Hunter shared with us tonight reflected the descriptions written on the PowerPoint Slide. Dr. Hunter stated that these critical inquiry projects "afford youth the opportunity to critically examine an experienced or recognized injustice from their lived social realities." This statement is significant because it exhibits how the implementation of these projects allow youth to become more aware of the cultural injustice around them, both experienced in the past, present, and potentially the future. These critical inquiry projects "blend academic knowledge with critical and social awareness" where children are able to "cultivate the necessary skills to actively participate in a democratic society." I believe this is an important point as well because it shows how utilizing these projects in the classroom encourages students to become active participants, connecting their academic knowledge with their social awareness.

Upon a deep analysis and reflection of the points made by Dr. Hunter during tonight's presentation, I feel as though I could certainly integrate critical inquiry projects into my own teaching. For instance, I took great interest in the Netflix projects displayed during Dr. Hunter's presentation. These projects presented immense cultural/social awareness that solidified the students' understanding through a creative means. The projects not only challenged the students creatively, but through a social/cultural lens as well to which they can better understand the identity of social groups, historical people, and events, etc. The children even collaborated with one another, which was another aspect that I particularly liked because through interviewing one another, they were able to develop a stronger comprehension of becoming culturally responsive while discussing various topics with their peers. As they converse, they exchange valuable information and perspectives that mesh their understandings and collectively, the entire student body can explore the key concepts of culturally relevant pedagogy. I believe the technological aspect of this project is extremely useful as well since our youth are becoming more immersed in technology. We are seeing a great shift in how technology is

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used in education today as children exhibit profound understanding and use for technology to voice and demonstrate their knowledge and interests. Therefore, to achieve a similar outcome regarding students' connections, perspectives, and understandings towards this important topic, I would utilize this teaching in my own classroom one day. OP

Dr. Jevon D. Hunter presented strategies for diverse student learners. During the presentation I had gain so much useful information and ideas to use in my future career as an educator. One of the examples that stood out to me was the Netflix project that students had created. This project was educational and fun for students and during the presentation I was thinking about how I could incorporate this into my classroom. I was brainstorming ideas for my 4th grade class to present their guided reading novels with this template. I also enjoyed how he spoke about learning about the Haudenosaunee. My student teaching class went to an in-person workshop today where the Journeys into American Indian Territory came and the students had an amazing experience. I loved how he showed examples of why students thought it was important to learn about the Haudenosaunee. This experience was very valuable for my teaching career. Dr. Jevon D. Hunter did an amazing job and presented useful information. SY

My reflection based on this culturally responsive presentation is that this was a very informative presentation. I enjoyed seeing the Netflix assignment to captivate children's attention to be culturally responsive and relatable to them. In order to have an inclusive classroom there needs to be inclusion of every child. Another thing I enjoyed was walking around and getting to read each assignment to see each students' ideas. Everyone has different opinions, and it is great for all students to be heard. HD

I really enjoyed learning different aspects of cultural education. I learned that is important to incorporate current things happening into a lesson. I learned that giving the students the ability to take what is current and create a project helps students learn more effectively. The example of the student that created a Netflix project was interesting. NB

I was amazed by Dr. Hunter's presentation. What I learned today was that teachers should find better and more acceptable ways in teaching their students the school curriculum. For example, when teachers are teaching students a social studies lesson, teachers should be cautious of how they present the different ideas and be more informed about the topic. Also, teachers should find different ways of connecting with their students and being creative when they teach. Teachers should bring in fun objects or find interesting YouTube videos that is related to the lesson. I love when our guest speaker, Dr. Hunter was able to connect the past with present day artist or present-day news. With this technique, you can grab the student's attention and learning. CP

Dr. Hunter was an amazing speaker. I loved that he let us do a picture walk because it was a nice way to gather information and engage with other students. In the future I would love to incorporate a Netflix activity similar to the one that was shown today because it would be nice to see students' personalities shown in their work. GM

I really enjoyed the presentation. Overall, I learned a lot from the way the teachers he was showing incorporate CR-S into their classrooms. I would love to use the haiku strategy he showed us. That was really moving and helpful to see. I also loved the Netflix strategy. I know as a student I would love that. I would love to use that strategy in my classroom. If we could get more information on how the teacher did that it would be helpful. KC

Today's seminar was interesting. I was especially fascinated with the biographical Netflix trailers. I think the future of education is integrating technology into the curriculum like that. I think the parts about how Native

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American tribes are named helped me be more culturally sensitive. That is good since I don't want to end up like the teachers who made their students pretend to be at a slave auction. NG

The seminar today was very informative. I learned that we need to be more culturally inclusive to all religions and ethnicities. With that, I need to make sure I do proper research to learn about different groups if I want to make references in the classroom. Since I am a math student teacher, it is challenging to use culturally relevant thing in the classroom, but should do so, respectfully, when possible. Also, if I have the students do a project, I should ask them to reflect on it. This will get all opinions and voices heard. AH

I learned how racism can negatively affect a student's education which is called curriculum violence. It's important that teachers incorporate both culture and race into their curriculum so that children recognize why it's important to them and other people. I thought it was interesting how teachers were able to create critical inquiries with different grade levels in different ways. Also, it's crucial that students reflect on the work that they did based on the critical inquiry given by the teacher so that they understand the significance of it. I think that this is a great way for teachers to become more culturally responsive in order to expand on their lessons and give students the power to express themselves through the cultural knowledge that they learn. SC

I really enjoyed the guest speaker's presentation today. It really helped to open my eyes on the different types of diversity you can incorporate into your classroom. I loved the Netflix activity and I plan on doing something like that in my classroom. The presentation also brought awareness of the injustice and horrible things that have taken place in the field of education. This presentation was extremely enlightening, and I learned a ton. NZ

Dr. Jevon D. Hunter's presentation on culturally responsive-sustaining education was enlightening in so many ways. When he spoke about groups of people and/or tribes being categorized under the name Indians or Native Americans or Iroquois it opened up my mind. In my student teaching experience, we are currently teaching about the Iroquois using the New York studies weekly newspapers. In the New York Studies Weekly, the Mohawks, Onondaga, Oneida, Seneca, Cayuga and Tuscarora tribes are all labeled under Iroquois and are not spoken about as their own individual name. After listening through Dr. Hunter's presentation and explanation of culturally responsive sustaining education, I feel more conscious and aware of the manner in which we facilitate the curriculum and the resources we use in the classroom. I also enjoyed seeing how integrating the interest of the student using technology to replicate popular social media sites like TikTok, Netflix and Instagram can encourage the students to look at the content in a new and exciting way. MF

I really enjoyed the event this evening. I like how he related the presentation to current student interests. I think it is so important to have discussion about race and culture, but Dr. Hunter put it in an eye-opening way and approach it in a relatable way to students. I really like how he implemented current interests such as the Netflix PowerPoint and the project where the student related the culture he was learning about to his own. AI

The event I attended on the night of November 2nd presented by Dr. Jevon D. Hunter the Woods Beals Endowed Chair for Urban Education and Interim Associate Dean for the School of Education at SUNY Buffalo State was very interesting. He made many points about how we would make our classroom a better place for all types of students no matter what race, color, religion, or overall background. He specially talked about how we can change our lesson for our students, so education is an enjoyable experience. He gave the one example of the class that the teacher had the students make Netflix films of a biography for each different historical figure they picked. Some of the students were very creative and it made them more interested in the subject they were learning about. Also, how in the beginning of the presentation he got us involved by putting up on the screen an educational experience we enjoyed. His overall presentation was a very informative and exciting to watch. I hope he is back for many more presentations in the future. What I took away from this event was, I gained a better experience of how to make my lesson interesting and enjoyable for my students when I'm a teacher. Doing the same old lesson, the students will not enjoy it as much, it is important to change your

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curriculum every year. Also, what I took away from this event was that as a future teacher I have the power to make an impact not only in my classroom but in my local community as well. As a teacher I have a platform to make a positive difference in and outside of the classroom. Education can be an enjoyable experience or a not so enjoyable experience for students. From this event, as a future educator, I will make my classroom an enjoyable learning experience and be there for my students when they need me. This event also showed me how education is a very diverse and ethnic field and not many students learn in the same way so you must adjust to your many different students' needs. Education is a powerful tool, and it is up to you how you want to make that experience for students. JK

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Editors: Dean Sukhram & Dr. Elizabeth Morphis

