



EQUITY
ALLIANCE MN

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EQUITY CONNECTOR

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Synergy Invited to Perform @ MN-NAME Conference on Saturday, October 15th

S synergy from Forest Lake High School were invited to perform and present their work at an information table at the Minnesota chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education (MN-NAME). MN-NAME is a non-profit organization comprised of educators, activists, parents, non-profit folks, and others committed to equity, social justice, and multicultural education.

The performance is a spoken word poetry piece created by the Synergy ensemble, a student-led group that uses artistic expression as a platform to create and inspire community change. Synergy students have strengthened their voice



Synergy students, Forest Lake HS

through utilizing student-driven artistic expression as a platform for illuminating and contesting inequitable educational conditions. Participants have been mobilized to understand and explore their responsibility in activating community change and making educational environments more equitable. In addition, a space has been provided where participants share their experiences and create future possibilities for collaboration amongst each other and within their communities.

Synergy performed last Spring to staff and students at Forest Lake HS and Equity Alliance MN afterschool programs. Synergy hopes to continue to share their piece within the larger metro community and welcomes invitations to perform at schools and community platforms. For more information please contact Heidi Fransen at heidi.fransen@equityalliancemn.org or 651-379-2656. MN-NAME Conference: Saturday, October 15 8:30am-3:00pm www.mn-name.org/2016-conference

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

- African American History for Educators.** Dr. Keith Mayes of the U of M is presenting history in a new perspective of shared history. Read more and register [here](#).
- Mni Sota Makece: The Dakota Homelands Curriculum Project.** Darlene St. Clair of SCSU, introduces students and teachers to the cultural understanding of the Dakota homeland. Read more and register [here](#).
- Constructing the Innocent Classroom.** Alexis Pate developed Innocent Classroom as a way for teachers to develop relationships with students of color in their classroom. Read more and register [here](#).
- Literacy Leaders' Network.** If you lead the literacy efforts in your school/district and would like to network with other literacy leaders, contact Dr. Jean Lubke jean.lubke@equityalliancemn.org. Read more [here](#).
- EL Leaders' Network.** If you lead the EL programming in your school/district and would like to join a network with other EL leaders, please contact Dr. Jean Lubke jean.lubke@equityalliancemn.org. Read more [here](#).
- EL Summit for Administrators - January 17, 2017** Save the date for the second Summit for district and building administrators to learn about the issues surrounding EL programs and services. Look for session details and registration information in the coming months.

STUDENT PROGRAMS

Wolfriders Step Team, Park High School

Park High School created a step team in 2007. With the help of the South Washington County School's Office of Educational Equity and Integration as well as Equity Alliance Minnesota, the team continues to grow. The step tradition was made popular by African-American fraternities and sororities and involves movement, singing, speaking, chanting and drama. Stepping in the U.S. can be traced as far back as the 1920's fraternities at Howard University.

Our teams have worked hard throughout the years, volunteering and performing at many events. In May of 2015, the team performed at the 70th anniversary celebration of Northern Tier Refining in St. Paul Park.



Wolfriders, Park HS

The Wolfriders have participated in local competitions for many years. On April 23, 2016, the team, coached by Sean Burns, competed with 5 high school teams at Minneapolis South High School and the Wolfriders brought home the first place trophy.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Visit: equityalliancemn.org for our current calendar of events

Classroom Partnerships Grade 4, Exchange 1 @ Camp St. Croix Oct. 5

Martha Redbone Trio @ The Ordway Oct. 7

Youth Executive Board Overnight Oct. 20-22

Minnesota State University Mankato College Visit: African American Engineering Oct. 11

University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire College Visit Oct. 28

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mn.org/news.html](http://www.equityalliancemn.org/news.html)

Summer Recap

AVID Bridge Camp

Students in grades 7 and 8 from Inver Grove Heights Middle School and Roseville Area Middle School participated in a 4 week Algebra camp at Globe University. Students were not only immersed in math, but were able to visit local businesses to see how math is used in various careers. Read more about the camp [here](#).

AVID PE/Health

AVID students in grades 9 and 10 from four school districts participated in a Summer PE and Health course for credit. Students were immersed in the curriculum involving health and PE, they were able to explore outdoor education with Wilderness Inquiry, attend the University of MN Health department as well as Minnehaha Falls. Read the full article [here](#).

K-Camp

Kindergarten Readiness Camps were held at Stillwater Early Learning Center and Pilot Knob Elementary School. Incoming kindergarten students with no previous classroom experience worked on transitions, interest in learning and interactions with others as well as learning how to "be in a school."

Visit: equityalliancemn.org for AVID news and images!

