



CREATING DYNAMIC LEARNING COMMUNITIES
at school • at home • at work



Summer Institute

June 14-16, 2009


Book Review

*A Brain-Based Approach to
Closing the Achievement Gap*

Presented by Adam Drummond


2009 Summer Institute – Granlibakken, Lake Tahoe, California

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“Brain-Based Approach to Closing the Achievement Gap”

By *Horatio Sanchez*



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Goal Sessions:

- Define ‘achievement gap’
- Review and/or learn new information about the brain
- Create a plan to solidify procedures in the school setting
- Determine a useful strategy for closing the achievement gap


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“If you don't like something change it; if you can't change it, change the way you think about it.”

Mary Engelbreit


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Write It, Walk It, Talk It

- Define ‘achievement gap’ on a sticky note.
- Move when the music begins.
- Find a partner when the music stops.
- Share your thoughts with your friend.
- Add ideas to your sticky note.
- Thank your partner for their ideas.


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What is An Achievement Gap?

- Term used to describe academic deficiencies
- All student populations
- Consistently underperform on standardized tests
- Minorities, children and adolescents with disabilities, and those living in poverty
- Common denominators include race and poverty
- Gap has widened in the last 10 years


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What Can Schools Do?

- The Brain research
 - Chemical imbalance
 - Prior Experiences
- The School-Wide Application
 - Expectations
 - Procedures
 - *Being There* experiences


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Sanchez' Strategies of Achievement Closing

- Senses
- Movement
- Chunking
- Music
- Repetition
- Symbols


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Collaboration

1. Develop a Catch Phrase
2. Create an Icon
3. Summarize your information
4. Share your thoughts.

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“Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.”

Abraham Lincoln

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