



## Executive Summary

### Inside the School Online Seminar: *5 Ways Teachers Can Close the Achievement Gap*

Drive positive results from all of the populations in your classroom.

Too many of our students complete school and are ill-prepared to be successful in their futures. Educators are preparing students for obsolete futures. We must ensure that we reduce learning gaps and increase the achievement options for more students – thus enhancing the future for everyone.

In the upcoming online seminar *5 Ways Teachers Can Close the Achievement Gap* we will address five educational strategies that are effective in an environment of changing demographics, high standards, and high stakes testing. We will look at strategies that are focused on the importance of using data to drive decision making, capacity-building leadership, research-based instructional methodology, and ways to involve more stakeholders. We will examine key elements that can help you progress through multiple changes with positive results for diverse populations.

This seminar will help you reflect on current practices and think more about aligning those practices with more ideas proven through research. In addition, the experience will be useful to educators who may be struggling to address the multiple challenges that an increasing number of students present as barriers to learning.

#### After participating in this seminar you will be able to:

- Reflect more about improvements to current practices
- Consider ways to increase the achievement of more students
- Examine priorities of learning goals

#### About the Presenter: Dr. Vera J. Blake

Dr. Vera J. Blake is the retired principal of Falls Church High School. A graduate of St. Paul's College (B.S.), the University of Virginia (M.Ed) and Vanderbilt University (Ed.D), she served as principal for 12 years at Homes Middle School; both schools are located in Fairfax County, Virginia. She was a contributing author to the book, *Transforming Ourselves, Transforming Schools: Middle School Change* (NMSA, 2001), co-authored "Middle School Partnerships: The More, the Better" (Principal Magazine, Fall, 1999) and "Addressing Diversity Through Partnerships" (Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin, Summer, 1998). Dr. Blake was the 2000 Virginia Middle School Principal of the Year, the 1999 Fairfax County Principal of the Year, and a 2000 Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leader.

#### Presentation Date/Time:

The 60-minute seminar will be pre-recorded before the date of the event, so you can watch it at your convenience. The seminar will be available to view anytime on-demand **March 29, 2010 through April 4, 2010.**

**How does an online seminar work?**

An **Inside the School** online seminar is delivered entirely over the Internet. No telephone connection is needed. You simply connect to a private link that will be emailed to you and access the seminar online through your computer. The seminar is presented in a special browser window that features a slide show presentation in one panel and sound and playback controls in another panel.

The seminar can be viewed on a single computer screen or be projected onto a larger one for a group setting.

**What is included in the \$199 registration price?**

All **Inside the School** seminars are priced per school, not per person. Yes, you read that correctly – your entire school can receive this great training for one flat low price! The registration price includes access to the seminar and useful handouts that you can copy and distribute to all the teachers at your school.

And not only that, but because we understand the chaotic schedules teachers often endure, we leave the seminar link up for one full week, so you can access it at your convenience. You can watch it during your preparation hours at school or even from your own home.

If you'd like to have access to the online seminar for longer than one week, CDs and transcripts of the program will be available. They are only \$99 extra with your registration or \$199 if you do not register for the event.

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