

Empowering Central Coast educators to create just and inclusive schools  
where all students can succeed.



# Institute for Equity in Education

Named a “national model for eliminating academic achievement gaps” by Marian Wright-Edelman, President, The Children’s Defense Fund

June 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2013

La Casa de Maria Retreat Center in Santa Barbara

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Just Communities’ *Institute for Equity in Education (IEE)* is a comprehensive program to eliminate the academic achievement gap and other forms of educational disparities in our schools. *IEE* is a 5-day residential workshop for educators in California’s Central Coast. *IEE* helps teachers, counselors, administrators, board members, and other school and district staff increase their understanding of how race, socioeconomic class, and individual and institutional bias affect teaching and learning.

## Comments from graduates

**“One of the most  
profound personal  
and professional  
growth experiences  
of my life.”**

David Ortiz  
Principal, La Colina  
Junior High School

*“What I remember most about IEE was the quality of the relationships we were able to form during our time at the institute. We spent so much time together . . . really quality time, digging into deep issues and topics.”*

*“I wasn't sure about having to stay onsite, but after a day or two of being onsite with everyone, I realized how vital this was to the experience at IEE. It allowed for conversations to continue into the night, friendships to grow, and time to enjoy the natural beauty of the setting that we were too busy to explore during the day. It was also helpful to not go back into the community each night to our families or friends because there was so much to soak in and process without the rest of our lives (bills, relationships, to do list, etc.) getting in the way.”*

*“The style of facilitation that Just Communities engaged in to facilitate this training was such a wonderful example of effective teaching and was so deeply appreciated.”*

In 2007, the Institute for Democratic Renewal at the Claremont Graduate University (CGU) named Just Communities’ *Institute for Equity in Education* ...

**“the most promising vehicle for eliminating racial and ethnic disparities and narrowing the educational achievement gap in the country.”**

Transforming communities. Advancing justice.

## What is learned at *IEE*?

During the *Institute for Equity in Education*, participants will learn how to use the 4 R's to eliminate achievement gaps and improve academic outcomes for all students.

**Relationships:** A wealth of research shows that the single most important factor in student success is the relationship students have with their teachers and school. **IEE helps educators build authentic relationships with all of their students**—especially across lines of difference.

**Relevance:** Students feel more connected to and invested in school when they see themselves in the curriculum and when instructional practices and school culture meet their cultural styles and needs. **IEE helps educators improve their level of cultural proficiency** so they can create culturally relevant educational experiences for all students.

**Rigor:** The combination of high expectations from teachers and a rigorous educational experience accelerate learning and improve academic outcomes. **IEE helps educators examine their own beliefs about each student's potential and help students develop their identities as learners.**

**Racial & Economic Justice:** IEE helps educators explore the history and legacy of racism in the U.S. education system and its impact on teaching and learning. It helps educators understand issues such as white privilege and internalized racism. **IEE provides educators with the knowledge and concrete tools necessary to counter the impacts of racism on student engagement and achievement.**

## Who can attend *IEE*?

*IEE* is open to Central Coast teachers, counselors, school and district administrators, coaches, clerical staff, school board members, and other personnel who are interested in creating school communities in which all students thrive. You should consider participating if you are:

- Taking responsibility for influencing change in school, district, or education reform.
- Concerned about how racism and other forms of inequity affect teaching and learning.
- Willing to address equity issues on a personal, as well as an institutional, level.

**Note:** Participants are required to attend as part of a team of at least two from their school or district. Teams should be as diverse as possible. *Participants are expected to stay on-site and be present for the entire 5 days.*

## What is the cost to attend *IEE*?

Total cost of the program is \$1,400 per person. This includes lodging, meals, materials, and follow-up support. A \$100 per person discount is available for participants who come as part of a team of four or more people from a single school site or district office, and for people who apply before April 15, 2013 (participants may qualify for both discounts). Just Communities can make specific pricing arrangements with interested districts.

Up to 3 graduate credits for participation are available through Antioch University's MAE program.



IEE provides a space to connect with peers.



IEE promotes meaningful dialogue.



IEE helps educators engage all students.

To find out more about *IEE* costs, discounts, and scholarship opportunities, please contact Ana Becerra at [abecerra@just-communities.org](mailto:abecerra@just-communities.org) or (805) 966-2063