

# Crosswalks Care Package #7

May 2006

This issue of the Crosswalks Care Package is special because it will reach over twice as many colleagues. Welcome to all our colleagues on the Crosswalks campuses that have served as our control group for the past two years!

## News and Updates

*June 23 Crosswalks Talks: A Professional Development Opportunity for Faculty*

**Topic:** Many paths, one goal: Preparing culturally responsive personnel to work with young children

**Presenters:** Beth Day-Hairston and Norma Day-Vines

**Date:** Friday, June 23

**Time:** 10:00 – 3:00

**Location:** FPG Child Development Institute

**Description:** The next seminar will focus on three "paths" toward achieving the goal of increasing the presence of and emphasis on cultural and linguistic diversity in coursework, field experiences and program practices. One segment will be devoted to the use of children's books to explore issues of culture and language. A second segment will share ideas about using James Banks' five dimensions of multicultural education to support desired changes. The third segment will offer examples of how service learning can be used to support the development of competent, confident, culturally responsive personnel. Resources and strategies for identifying, talking about and addressing privilege will also be provided. **Mark your calendars now if you are interested in participating. Later this month you'll receive a descriptive flyer and a registration form. Please plan to register early as space will be limited.**

## Content Resources

### *Diversity Activities for Youth and Adults*

The Penn State College of Agricultural Science Cooperative Extension has developed a free resource to help students and other participants become more aware of their own cultural viewpoints and the stereotypes they may have inadvertently picked up. The 12-page resource offers six different activities, along with suggestions for use and resources for additional information. Download at <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/pdfs/ui335.pdf>

### *Downloadable Activities in Crosswalks Toolbox*

Thirteen new downloadable activities for faculty and trainers have just been loaded into the Crosswalks Toolbox. Each activity demonstrates ways in which a children's book can be used to support simultaneous learning and reflection about diversity and early childhood development. For example, *Ma Jiang and the Orange Ants: Activities for Exploring Science and Diversity* offers a unique, cultural perspective on the way young children can contribute to the well-being of their families. The activity includes options for writing exercises, lesson plans, self-reflection, investigation of ecosystems, and discussion of cultural values. From the "select resource type" pull-down menu (<http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~scpp/crosswalks/toolbox/search.cfm>) select "Downloadable Activity"; then hit search. This will bring up a list of all 13 activities for you to select among.

### *Social Justice Resources Center (SJRC)*

The SJRC was developed to provide print, media, and web-based resources relevant to developing "diversity-inclusive" curricula and pedagogy for use by students and faculty. The developers, at Virginia Tech, were committed to developing anti-racist, anti-sexist, and anti-homophobic curricula and pedagogies as appropriate to K-12 teaching and higher education. To this end they have created a searchable database of books, journals, articles, videos, web sites, images and other resources addressing diversity issues in all subject areas. The database is organized so that the user can select (a) subject area; (b) a format (e.g., book, web site); or, (c) social issue, (e.g., race, class, gender). View and search this resource at <http://edpsychserver.ed.vt.edu/diversity/about.cfm>

## Family and Community Resources

### *Handbook for Educators Who Work with Children from Mexico*

North Carolina is among the states experiencing the highest growth rate of the expanding Latino population in the United States. This change is having a great impact on our schools, creating a need for educators to learn more about Latino students and for Latino parents to learn more about schools in this country. The School of Education at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill has produced two new resources to address these needs — a manual for educators and a guide for parents, in Spanish.

The educators' manual, *The Handbook for Educators Who Work with Children of Mexican Origin*, is presented electronically on an easy-to-navigate compact disc (CD). Its goal is to help personnel discover how they can better address the learning needs of this expanding group of children and young adults in their schools. The CD describes the Mexican educational system, the geography and history of Mexico, cultural differences between Mexico and the US, and Mexican customs and traditions. It also provides resources including links to useful web sites and a list of acronyms and abbreviations.

The 23-page parent guide, published in Spanish, is titled *Mis hijos van a la escuela en Carolina del Norte: Guía sobre las Escuelas Primarias (My Children Are Going to School in North Carolina: A Guide About Primary Schools)*. The guide is intended for immigrant parents from Spanish-speaking countries who are sending their children to public elementary schools in North Carolina. The guide discusses a variety of topics including the enrollment process, the North Carolina educational system, parents' rights, customs and practices in American schools, expectations and language differences.

Both resources are FREE. To obtain copies, contact Dr. Regina Cortina ([cortina@email.unc.edu](mailto:cortina@email.unc.edu)).

## Student Resources

### *National Early Childhood Education Scholarship Program*

The Bright Futures Scholarship Program supports the field of early childhood education by offering scholarships for future teachers and directors. Four \$2500 scholarships are available for students pursuing degrees in early childhood education or in a related field. Three of the scholarships are designated for future teachers, and one is for a future child care program director. Applications must be received by Wednesday, May 31, 2006. Winners will be notified by July 30, 2006. Details are available at <http://www.brighthorizons.com/scholarship/index.htm>

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Contact Camille Catlett at (919) 966-6635 or [catlett@mail.fpg.unc.edu](mailto:catlett@mail.fpg.unc.edu)