A FAILING GRADE? Addressing Opportunity and Achievement Gaps in Public Education

Friday, January 29, 2016
1:30 – 3 p.m.
Givens Conference Room (120 Elmer Andersen Library)
West Bank campus
Free and open to the public
Live streaming available via our website
For more information provided by the University Libraries: z.umn.edu/criticalconversations

The achievement gap is the statistically significant difference between white students and students of color in terms of test scores, grade point averages, graduation rates, college attendance, and other metrics. Embarrassingly, the US Department of Education describes Minnesota’s achievement gap as one of the widest in the country. Join this discussion to examine contributing causes such as food insecurity, inadequate family support, dearth of economic resources, as well as remnants of systemic racism in public school classrooms. Engage in a conversation about current and proposed solutions based on academic/community partnerships, support for better teacher training and diversification, family support programs and other attempts to close what may better be described as an opportunity and resource gap rather than simply an achievement gap.

Panelists: Lisa Sayles-Adams, Assistant Superintendent, K8 and Middle Schools, St. Paul Public Schools, District 625; Ahmed Amin, (B.A. Sociology/History, M.A. Education) Social Studies teacher, Roosevelt High School; Michael Bradley, Principal, Roosevelt High School, Minneapolis; Peter Dementow, Associate Professor, Organizational Leadership and Development, University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development.

Moderator: Michael Goh, Associate Vice Provost, OED, and Associate Professor, University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development.

Learn more at diversity.umn.edu/criticalconversations, or contact Anne Phibbs at phib0001@umn.edu or 612-625-9973.

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