

## SEED (Seeking Educational Equity & Diversity) Seminars

### 2020-2021 Sourcewell Regional Offerings \*

**Beginner SEED Seminar:** Power and privilege are foundational concepts for subsequent learning and for this reason, we ask that you start your SEED journey with our beginner course. Together we will build foundational understanding around concepts of mental models, implicit bias, systemic racism while using a common text centered on race to guide us. In addition to discussing power and privilege connected to race we will also build in additional learning connected to a variety of identities using case studies. These additional identities studied include ableism, socioeconomic status, mental health, American/Indian and Alaskan Natives, religions, multilingualism, and LGBTQ.

**Provided text:** White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo

**Anti-Racism:** Our country is experiencing a historical reckoning. Racism in the United States is not a new concept, but it might be newly on your radar following the death of George Floyd and many others. Perhaps you have followed the protests and Black Lives Matter movement and wondered what you personally could do; or perhaps you are an active participant in the movement as you continue the lifelong work of racial justice. This course is for both of those experiences and anyone in between. Join us as we examine the historical context, what racism really is and what we should do about it.

**Provided text:** How to be an Antiracist by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

\*These seminars can also be requested at school sites with 10 participants or more

### Catalog of SEED Seminars

**Immigration:** Respecting students' and family's immigration status and creating safe and welcoming environments for both students and adults alike is imperative to building quality relationships with families as well as inclusive school practices. This course focuses on understanding the political climate, policies and advocacy work as well as examining a historical context, inspiring narratives and real-life stories of struggle and resistance. Whether your community is home to immigrant populations currently or isn't yet; gaining an understanding and action steps for how to build, transform or sustain communities and schools that welcome and support immigrant families is work that cannot be sidelined or secondary.

**Provided text:** We Too Sing America by Deepa Iyer

**Indigenous Wisdom:** This course will lean on the knowledge and expertise of two Indigenous authors, Dr. Robin Kimmerer and Anton Treuer. Together as a group we will use Kimmerer's text which reads from a scientific and biology lens, to analyze the power of intersectionality and the value and importance of multiple perspective taking. Each session will also incorporate interest-based learning topics determined by the group from Treuer's text, Everything you Wanted to Know about Indians But were Afraid to Ask.

**Provided text:** Braiding Sweet Grass by Dr. Robin Kimmerer

**Poverty and Gender:** The focus of this course is understanding how poverty effects opportunities for students and adults in the school system. Through our text readings, articles, videos, outside expertise and personal experience, we will shine a light on inequities and find ways to change or mitigate practices that do not respect or

effectively serve people from all socio-economic backgrounds. Because poverty does not occur in a vacuum, other intersecting identities become part of the conversation. The last two sessions of this seminar will also examine gender inequities, the messages society sends about gender, sexism and how these messages impact school settings.

**Provided text:** Supporting Students Struggling with Poverty by Paul Gorski

**Race, Religion, and Language:** Students' racial, religious, and language identities and backgrounds have an impact on their learning and our teaching. This course will examine and discuss the school-based impacts of race, religious expression and family home language. Because these identities do not stand alone, we will explore the ways in which these topics may intersect, leaning on text reading and case studies as well as exploring our own personal experiences. We will view each through the lens of how school systems operate, working to recognize inequities and articulate them, so that we continually work towards equitable learning environments for all students regardless of race, religion or language.

**Provided text:** Burro Genius by Victor Villasenor

**Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity:** Respecting our students' sexual orientation or gender identity and expression while ensuring a safe and equitable learning community for each and every student is essential to our work. These are topics that some may feel uncomfortable having a conversation about or are unsure how to respond to in a school setting. Sometimes when we don't know what to say, we say nothing. Silence is then left up to others to interpret. This SEED Seminar will give educators the opportunity to build their knowledge and comfort (or a comfort with discomfort) around potentially unfamiliar identities in order to recognize and respond to inequities as they occur.

**Provided text:** Getting to Ellen by Ellie Krug