Multicultural teacher training will help teachers show all students (minority and majority) how to develop the multicultural awareness needed for successful citizenship in this diverse society.”

Source: Katie Denslow, The Ability of Teachers to Close the Minority Achievement Gap Through Multicultural Teacher Training, May 2000

**Becoming Aware of Cultural Differences**

According to a survey of 248,000, 6th through 12th grade students, 84% admitted to carrying some form of racial prejudice, while 45% say that they have experienced some form of prejudice in the past year (Teen and Race, 1995). These results indicate that educators also face a daunting task of teaching students social skills and cultural acceptance; however, in order to achieve this reform, educators must be willing to educate themselves about the differences in cultures and how they affect a students learning experience.

After surveying 92 White, middle to upper class, pre-service teachers before and after a diversity seminar. The results showed that these future educators had different expectations for students in urban versus suburban settings and students from different racial backgrounds. These results suggest a lack of self-esteem in one’s own ability, so much so that 64% of the pre-service teachers preferred placement in White suburban schools. With a lack of cultural education being present in the student and educator, one may ask how we expect the notion of cultural acceptance to be achieved. One suggestion could be for educators to receive formal training to make them aware of different cultural barriers that may obstruct their students learning experience. Receiving the proper training could allow an educator to become more comfortable in teaching students of all cultures therefore giving each student no matter their circumstances an equal education.

1Multicultural Training -the appreciation, acceptance or promotion of multiple cultures. Dictionary.Reference.com. Retrieved 2010-12-10

**TRiO Upward Bound**

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