

CALL FOR PAPERS

Achieving Education For All: Resolving challenges of learning difference, learner diversity, and ‘at risk children and youth’

Internationally, the mandate for countries to pursue socially just practices in education has been championed by The United Nations and in particular UNESCO as early as the 1970s. It is now over a decade since the World Education Forum in Dakar and more than two decades since the World conference on Education for All in Jomtien, Thailand. While Education for All seems to be philosophically sound, translating it into practice in countries around the world that are economically, racially, culturally and geo politically diverse remains a challenge. Interestingly enough, achieving Education for All in the 21st Century should be effortless given the ubiquitous nature of technology and the internet that promotes the preponderance and proliferation of distance learning options via Massive Online Open Campuses (MOOC). Moreover, new pedagogical and andragogical models based on Universal Design for Learning, and policies and legislation worldwide that promote, embrace and integrate tenants associated with inclusive practices in education should assist with making Education for All a reality.

The first international special education conference in the Caribbean will focus on the theme “Achieving Education For All: Resolving Challenges of learning difference, learner diversity and ‘at risk children and youth’”. Although situated in the Caribbean, the conference is meant to locate the discourse on achieving education for all in an international context.

Within the postcolonial world of Caribbean learning communities, policy makers and practitioners are challenged to provide an engaging relevant experience for all learners. This would involve a responsive curriculum and resources, where administrators, teachers, parents, learners and other stakeholders are true partners in learning; working towards bridging learning differences and learner diversity. The multicultural island-nations that constitute the Caribbean must be able to provide an education system that allows for all to find an equal opportunity to benefit from education. Yet many learners find themselves at academically and socially at risk, because of their own learning differences ranging from giftedness to learning difficulties and diverse factors that might include socioeconomic status, gender, ethnicity, age, urban/rural, religion and school climate.

We seek proposals that will provide new theoretical and epistemological frameworks, promote best practices in inclusive and special education and inform clinical, professional, and political priorities to achieve education for all. Proposals for posters and papers should be located within one of the conference subthemes and be no more than 2000 words.

Sub Themes include

1. Inclusive Approaches and Practice in Regular Education
2. Inclusive Approaches and Practice for Vulnerable Groups
3. Inclusive/ Special Education policy
4. Early Childhood Special Education
5. Inclusive Educational Leadership
6. Using Technology to Achieve Inclusion
7. Collaborative Partnerships
8. Curriculum Pedagogy and Technology
9. Culturally Responsive Curricula
10. Identification, Assessment and Evaluation
11. Social Justice and Advocacy
12. Student Voices
13. Transition Planning and Career Development
14. Teacher Training for Inclusive Education

Proposals should comprise no more than 2000 words and include the following information:

- Title/SubTheme
- Abstract and keywords (120-150 words)
- Objectives/Purpose of the Study
- Research Method including data collection and analysis details
- Results/Anticipated results
- Significance

Deadlines

Proposal Submission Deadline May 06th 2016

Decision of Acceptance or Rejection July 17th 2016

Early Bird Registration Opens July 30th 2016

Final Paper Submission Deadline October 15th 2016

Early Bird Registration Closes October 31st 2016

Registration Opens November 31st 2016

Proposals should be submitted to Ms. Nadia Laptiste Francis, Conference Secretary at ieconference@sta.uwi.edu.