

The King County Non-Profit Staff Development Coalition (NPSDC),

[www.learningconnections.org](http://www.learningconnections.org)

in partnership with the Washington State WorkFirst Program

presents ...

## UNDERSTANDING POVERTY

A special training presentation by DR. DONNA BEEGLE

(nationally acclaimed speaker and trainer on poverty and author of "See Poverty, Be the Difference")

Wednesday | September 26, 2007 | 9:00am – 4:30pm

Location: La Quinta Inn & Suites | 1425 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street | Tacoma WA 98421-2200

**This one day interactive training event will be presented in two parts**

### **Part One: (morning session) -- Interrupting Generational Poverty Barriers**

An understanding of the context, world view, learning and communication styles of families living in poverty is essential to breaking the cycle of generational poverty. What does living in poverty teach? What does it mean to be poor in wealthy America? Income, educational opportunities, and life experiences shape our communication and relationship styles and can create misunderstandings and missed opportunities for connection.

Through sharing her journey out of "generational poverty," her doctoral studies on generational poverty, and 15 years working to interrupt cycles of generational poverty, Dr. Donna Beegle will frame the discussion of how our class/diverse cultural experiences "program" us with values and expectations that shape our abilities to relate and communicate effectively across socio-cultural barriers. The concepts of how socialization and communication shapes education and job expectations, perception, identification, and motivation are addressed.

*This session will increase an understanding of poverty and that it is possible to break the cycle and help people to move forward.*

### **Part Two: (afternoon session) – Concrete Tools for Working with People in Poverty**

Most of our social service and education systems are set up to support people coming from a print culture orientation. Social services are often alienating to families from generational poverty that have an oral cultural world-view. How we get our information shapes how we relate to one another and how we experience the world. Many people from lower-class backgrounds get their information verbally, creating an "oral" culture thought process. Many people from middle-upper class backgrounds gain their information from reading, creating a "print" culture thought process. Understanding these different thought processes could improve communication across class barriers and increase success in the educational environment. Opportunities for improving communication and relationships are enormous when these concepts are understood and incorporated into every aspect of the service process.

**Oral Culture** (orality) is a natural state in which we are highly attuned to our senses (touch, smell, sight, sound, and taste) and devote a great deal of attention to sensory information. Orality emphasizes our interconnection with the environment and the people in it. Some characteristics of orality are spontaneity, connectedness, present orientation, comfort with emotions, able to see "the big picture," and holistic.

**Print Culture** (literacy) is a learned way of relating to the world where people learn to process and analyze (breaking things down according to parts) information collected through sight, sound, hearing, touch, and smell according to categories, classifications, and styles of reasoning developed by reading. Some characteristics of print culture are: self-discipline (ability to not pay attention to everything that is going on around you, but rather to focus on a single idea), separation and disconnection, ability to delay gratification, ability to strategize and plan ahead, ability to set goals, ability to develop technology, ability to break things down into parts, and ability to organize efforts according to predetermined goals.

*This session provides participants with the tools of oral and print culture to enhance communication skills necessary for reaching across poverty barriers.*

**TRAINER:** Dr. Donna Beegle

**WORKSHOP FEE:** \$50 per participant

**Workshop fee includes materials, continental breakfast and lunch.**

### **TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP:**

10 scholarships for Washington State WorkFirst program staff are available on a "first come, first serve" basis.

Go to [www.learningconnections.org/coalition/scholarship.htm](http://www.learningconnections.org/coalition/scholarship.htm) to access scholarship information form.

### **Continuing Education Units/Clock Hours**

Participants can register for Highline Community College **Continuing Education Units (CEUs)**.

The cost is \$10.00 per course. CEU forms are available at the workshop.

**Free Clock Hours available at the workshop.**

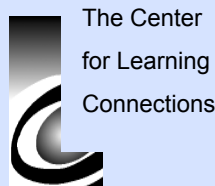
**REGISTER ONLINE TODAY !!** (space is limited)

To register online, go to: [http://www.learningconnections.org/coalition/workshops/2007/Sept26/\(wf\)index.htm](http://www.learningconnections.org/coalition/workshops/2007/Sept26/(wf)index.htm)

### **Contact**

For more information about this workshop, contact **Anna McCain (206) 870-5908** or E-mail: [amccain@highline.edu](mailto:amccain@highline.edu)

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