

□ An Evening at Rice University for a Community Dialogue on Urban Education

Written by Forward Times Staff
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Empowering African American Students for Success in a Twenty-First Century Society

Houston - As part of a Black History Month Celebration, Dr. Roland Smith, Associate Provost at Rice University, invites educators to join him in “An Evening at Rice University for a community dialogue on urban education,” on Wednesday, February 8, 2012. The conversation will explore the vision and plan included in the newly-released book, *Learning for Ownership* to improve the persistency and outcomes of African American students in urban schools.

As a leading research university with a distinctive commitment to undergraduate education, Rice University aspires to path-breaking research, unsurpassed teaching, and contributions to the betterment of our world.

The university seeks to fulfill this mission by cultivating a diverse community of learners and through thoughtful dialogue and discovery that produce leaders across the spectrum of human endeavor.

This educational forum is designed to contribute to the thoughtful conversation about ways to curtail the widening achievement gap of African American students and to implement strategies for improvement. *Learning for Ownership* will set the stage for the conversation, and the author, Dr. Margaret Ford Fisher, will be the featured guest. The program will begin at 6:00 o'clock in the evening with a book signing at 7:00 PM and will be held on the Rice University Campus in the Duncan Hall McMurtry Auditorium.

As an educational practitioner, your immediate involvement in the conversation about educational practices is critically important! Statistics point to a deepening crisis in K-12 public education as reflected in data reported by the Broad Education Foundation, one of the country's leading foundations that honors urban school districts that produce the greatest student performance and achievement while simultaneously closing the achievement gaps among low income and minority students.

The Broad Education Foundation's data indicate that American students rank 25th in mathematics and 21st in science compared to students in 30 industrialized countries. The national high school graduation rate is 70% -- which includes a high of 84% in Utah and a low of 54% in South Carolina.

Reports also show that only about half of the nation's African American and Latino students graduate on time from high school, and the majority do not graduate with college-readiness skills.

Nevertheless, once the students arrive at school, irrespective of their level of educational preparedness, the educational practitioners are the ones held responsible and accountable for the student learning performance and learning outcomes.

Dr. Ford Fisher, our featured guest, has over thirty years of experience in the field of education.

She has conducted extensive research on the topic of teaching and learning and has published broadly in the field.

She is the best-selling author of the text entitled, *High School Students Earning College Credit:*

A Guide to Creating Dual Credit Programs, published in 1996, and the author of the *Teacher/Student Interaction Instrument* that assesses teachers' stages of ethnicity.

Rice University is located at 6100 Main Street, Houston, TX, 77005. The URL for the campus

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map is <http://www.rice.edu/maps/maps.html>. Duncan Hall is building #22 -- located near Entrance No.2. Several visitor lots are available on campus for your convenience – all requiring a credit card for payment upon entering.

Dr. Smith will look forward to welcoming you to Rice University and invites you to arrive early. You may send your rsvp to Judy Foston of Foston International at jfoston@fostoninternational.com or 866-922-2544 by February 1, 2012.{jcomments on}