

## **Vision Statement David Lam Chair**

In what follows, I outline my plan in accordance with the points expressed in the mandate for the David Lam Chair particularly with regard to “*advancing scholarship and praxis in multicultural education at UBC and beyond*”.

### **Carry out research in multicultural and social justice studies in education**

I shall continue to conduct research in multicultural and social justice studies in education and promote the UBC goal of Research Excellence in the following areas. The David Lam Chair would enable me to bring to fruition several projects in their conceptual or preliminary stages.

#### *New research*

There are pressing research questions not yet tackled in the Canadian research literature that could contribute to the knowledge production in faculties of education. I recently conducted a literature review that revealed a paucity of studies on pedagogical approaches for racially and ethnically diverse students in British Columbia. As an extension of my earlier research, I will begin such a study and will make contacts with willing principals and parents as way of narrowing a preliminary focus. My goal is to contribute to the gaps in Canadian educational literature regarding race, class, gender and social justice in education.

#### *Ongoing research*

I am currently writing up four life history interviews with Black educators in Vancouver. This ongoing study contributes to emergent literature by examining the specific educational narratives of Black Canadians in British Columbia. I am examining the complex choreography of gender, race, class, language, and nationality – dimensions that are not always central to studies of education but are critical to understanding issues of citizenship, belonging and identity in a multicultural, multilingual society. This research will be of interest to educators, administrators and policy-makers who are interested in understandings and educational tools that promote equity and social justice.

#### *International research.*

Dr. Loraine Cook, at the University West Indies and I are analyzing data from an inner city school in Jamaica. Furthermore, I have completed a draft of a comparative study of language policy in Jamaica and Haiti. These projects will contribute to international perspectives on equity and social justice in education.

#### *Urban education*

Dr. Carl James (York University) and Dr. Lance McCreedy (University of San Francisco) and I are working on a prospectus (for an edited volume) with a new perspective on urban education. Peter Lang has expressed interest at this early stage.

### **Advise on the design of programs/courses that would build capacity for educators**

As Chair, I would convene an advisory board of several members (perhaps program coordinators) to provide suggestions and feedback from the units. I look forward to building capacity and taking an advisory role in graduate, pre-service and in-service programs to continue to promote UBC Goal of “Transformative Student Learning through outstanding teaching and research.”

### **Work with a university/community/school based advisory group**

There are several areas where University/Community based advisory relationships could be cultivated: BC teachers who attended my *Race Matters* workshop in 2014 have approached me to do workshops for BC Teachers Federation. The UBC Learning Exchange also recently invited me to imagine possible partnerships. I was asked by Sara-Jane Finlay to participate in a Race Task Force; I am a member of the newly formed Critical Race and Anti-Colonial Studies (CRACS) Research Network and Working Group, a GRSJ initiative. I am on the advisory board for the James Johnston Chair in Black Studies at Dalhousie University. These are organizations and boards in which the David Lam Chair could play a strong advisory role and build relationships with the Faculty of Education.

### **Facilitate community engagement and the dissemination of scholarship in multicultural and social justice studies in education**

#### *Digital oral history project*

I have agreed to work with the National Congress of Black Women Foundation in Burnaby (<http://www.ncbwf.org>), a non-profit organization that supports black women and their families through information, services, programs and activism in the lower mainland. This university/community partnership would reflect UBC commitments to community engagement and intercultural understanding. NCBWF has collected 90 audiotapes profiles of Black Canadians in metro Vancouver. They have not had the funds or the time to complete their goal of producing a book of these profiles. I have proposed a partnership to produce curriculum materials and digital resources (e.g., digital stories, a multimedia website and other online resources that can be used by researchers, teachers, students in schools and at the university level). In addition, this project will serve NCBWF in achieving its primary goal of collating the stories into book form. Importantly, this partnership will generate a number of curricular possibilities regarding British Columbia’s multicultural communities and highlight UBC’s commitment to multicultural knowledge production. This project fits well with the department of Language and Literacy Education. Graduate students in our Digital Literacy Centre (DLC) can provide support in digitizing the tapes and minor editing while gaining experience in community university partnerships. Moreover, I will apply for a Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund (TLEF) to hire people skilled in instructional design and website design. The project team will utilize UBC licensed software, other widely available software, freeware, and resources provided by Centre for Teaching and Learning Technologies (CTLT) and the Digital Learning Centre (DLC) to develop the user-friendly multimedia tools.

**Offer annually an interdisciplinary course in multicultural and social justice studies in education that will attract a broad audience**

As the David Lam Chair, I would first conduct a survey of the faculty courses under the rubric of Multiculturalism/Antiracism/Equity/Inclusivity Anti-colonial/Decolonizing methodologies, and as a way to begin to develop innovative curricula for my own interdisciplinary multicultural course, and as a way to create dialogue, build community around the themes of Justice and Equity in education, and initiate a deeper consciousness of antiracist, anti-colonialist perspectives across the Faculty. Some preliminary ideas for my own teaching include: Critical Race Theories in Education, Research on Teaching and Learning in Multiracial Canadian Classrooms, Antiracist Pedagogies.

With this Chair, I shall work with Professional Development and Community Education unit (PCDE) to develop summer institutes for 2017, 2018, and 2019. I am currently conceptualizing a summer institute for 2017 that brings together the culmination of the *Race Literacies* series and will involve interdepartmental collaboration with UBC colleagues Handel Wright (Educational Studies, Denise Ferreira de Silva (Director, Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social justice) and Phaniel Antwi (English Department). This summer institute can also be thematically and conceptually aligned with themes in the 2016-2017 *Education for Critical Consciousness* international speaker series being organized by GRSJ. In addition, in consultation with the departments, I envision a “Teaching for Social Transformation” summer institute to be launched in 2017 or 2018 which will focus on equity/antiracism/social justice/inclusivity perspectives. I will encourage the Faculty to maximize this focus by inviting a Noted Summer Scholar whose research complements these themes. Through the Chair, I hope to: address equity in curricula and social justice knowledge production; increase theoretical and practical understandings of language, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, and class and the enhancement of teaching and learning for 21<sup>st</sup> century classrooms, and; encourage novel, approaches to enduring educational and societal issues.

The mentorship of graduate students is of great importance. This could take place in several forms such as seminars, monthly research groups, brown bags, as well as opportunities to include students on the research projects and outreach activities of the Chair.

**Conduct and arrange public lectures and/or events and/or media networks in social justice studies in education**

The David Lam lecture series will feature a racially and ethnically diverse group of speakers on the research and practice from anti-oppressive antiracist/multicultural/social justice and indigenous perspectives. I will first invite suggestions from the four departments in the Faculty of Education, and will also rely on the Advisory for guidance. The lecture series will provide a forum to engage in critical dialogue with scholars whose work addresses the many enduring challenges in a multicultural, multiracial, multilingual, multi-faith society; to cultivate and sustain relationships amongst Canadian and international scholars as well as establish a stronger a UBC focus on social justice, and; to engage with the wider Vancouver community. In addition, I shall continue to use my

media and social media networks as well as blogs and webinars to promote the activities of the Chair and disseminate information about equity/social justice in the Faculty of Education.

**Assessing the impact of the proposed Chair activities and initiatives.**

The impact of research will be assessed throughout the various stages of peer review toward publication and their eventual use/citations by colleagues in the field. The research articles will be completed by year 2.

I will (co-) create clear goals and communicate regularly with community partners, Faculty units and advisory board members. Ongoing feedback will ensure that the desires of these organizations and units are being met to their satisfaction. We will establish reasonable deliverables within the first few meetings in 2016.

Online and paper evaluations will be built into the public lecture series and can inform future lecture events.

In addition to the end of term evaluation in my classes, I periodically provide opportunities for feedback on particular lessons and/or what the students are learning. This practice will continue as David Lam Chair.