

Developing Leadership Skills through Tutoring and Mentoring in Education (UNST 421)
In-class Reflection
Winter 2014

"The nation recognizes its social, civic and economic strength is directly linked to the strength of its public schools. But if every child is to have an opportunity for success, every student must have a true Opportunity to Learn."

- John H. Jackson, President of Schott Foundation for Public Education

"Despite the best efforts of America's educators to bring greater equity to our schools, too many children- especially low-income and minority children- are still denied the educational opportunities they need to succeed."

- Russlynn Ali, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education

"The transforming impact of excellent public schools is proven. The sad irony is that learning-related resources necessary for high academic performance are often tilted toward middle-class and affluent schools."

- Edwin C. Darden, Director of Education Law and Policy, Appleseed

"Most of what we call the achievement gap is a resource gap. If you are in a hospital and your recovery isn't going so well, we give you more resources to catch you up, to make sure you walk out that door as strong and healthy as anybody else. In school it should be the same way. If you're falling behind, we should devote more attention to you, more resources."

- Ben Jealous, President of NAACP

(quotes from <http://www.otlcampaign.org/> [Opportunity to Learn Campaign], retrieved 1/14)

Drawing from these quotes, the readings and discussions from this class, your experiences this term at Jefferson High School, and any additional expertise, experience, and insight that you have, please consider the following questions:

1. As you understand them, what are some of the root causes of educational inequity in our society?
2. What do you see as the outcome of your individual service activities and those of our class (e.g., the projects on which we have been working) on students at Jefferson? What about for the broader community (i.e., Jefferson students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the local community)?
3. How might you, as an engaged citizen, help to identify and eliminate policies, practices, and behaviors that create inequitable school systems?