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FINDING EVERY STUDENT'S GENIUS TO IMPROVE THE LEARNING PROCESS

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Abstract

By incorporating teacher attitudes and perceptions of student learning into the classroom, the following presentation will provide the audience an overview of an effective differentiated classroom, designed for all students ranging from those with significant disabilities to those identified as gifted for the competent, caring teacher. The session will cover a multitude of skills including, but not limited to, multiple learning modalities, classroom strategies, student genius, etc. Differentiation is not only a research-based phenomenon, but is best practices for 21st century schools.

Participants will be able to interact directly with Howard Gardner's *Multiple Intelligent Test* to identify appropriate modes of learning. Upon a completion of their inventory, they will be able to distinguish appropriate methods to reach all students. Teacher perceptions and attitudes will be discussed with a correlation of how their behavior directly relates to student learning.

The following presentation will take the format of poster presentation with the anticipation of sharing pertinent information for new and "seasoned" teachers that will enable all student learners to bring out their "inner genius" in the classroom setting. By allowing the participants to take part in the best practices strategy of differentiation, teachers will gain an understanding of how their perceptions and attitudes could change the classroom atmosphere to the success or detriment of their students. Two presenters will collaborate with this presentation.

The presentation will begin with the definition of "differentiation" so all participants have a clear understanding of the material to be covered. The presenters will discuss how teacher attitudes and perceptions can alter student achievement and how the use of effective classroom strategies may be incorporated to reach various modalities (i.e., kinesthetic, auditory, visual). Afterwards, presenters will explain how faculty of teacher educators can help new and experienced teachers design a building-appropriate model conducive for all students' success. If time allows, various lesson plan formats may be shared to represent an effective differentiated classroom lesson.

The topic of differentiation is extremely necessary in today's schools to enable all students to have a sense of success in bringing out their inner genius. Our students do not come in a box and one size does not fill all; therefore, it is the teacher's mission to reach our youth, no matter their background, creed or color. Teachers cannot allow their biases to interfere with the success of their students. This presentation is relevant in supporting the efforts of our educators, ensuring that no child be left behind.