

Learning and/or change: Five years in the equity inquiry of Connecticut education scholars

November 10, 2014 / 12–3pm / Memorial Fund Offices, Hamden Connecticut

Context and goals

From 2010–2014, The Memorial Fund has made an approximate 1 million dollar investment into knowledge development efforts. This investment has increasingly been dedicated to partnerships with university based scholars.

This convening marks the first time that the scholars engaged in Memorial Fund learning partnerships have come together to discuss their work. The discussion starter questions below and the scholar overviews should be considered a first draft of a conversation that we plan to help us move into the writing of a compendium of the work.

Purpose and Desired Outcomes

This engaged convening is intended to deepen understanding of the Memorial Fund's knowledge development learning partnerships and their relation to ideas of equity and educational change. More specifically, we intend to:

- Share highlights of the five university learning partnerships
- Generate insights about inquiry processes and the role of scholars in educational change
- Surface nuances of engaged inquiry and structures that support these processes
- Identify themes and questions relevant to a written compendium of this inquiry

Participants will leave with a better understanding of the university partnership investments of the Memorial Fund and will support the sharing of the learnings by surfacing key issues that can inform the development of a compendium.

Conversation starter

Learning partner scholars have been asked to think about:

- What did the partnership make possible that you might not have had the opportunity to do?
- What opportunities did you seize in terms of sharing this work with students, colleagues, and your institutions?
- What about the partnership grant structure was supportive in your equity work? If you don't use the term equity, how do you categorize your work?
- What were the challenges and successes with growing this work?

Friends in the room will be asked to share their perceptions, questions, and ideas about educational change and the role of the university scholar. Some questions might be:

- What comes up for you about the approach in relation to educational change?
- What comes up for you in thinking about the role of university scholars in equity and change?
- What barriers or opportunities do you see? What puzzles or surprises you?