

821 Ste-Croix, Montréal QC H4L 3X9 Tel: 514.744.7500 Fax: 514.744.7505 info@vaniercollege.qc.ca www.vaniercollege.qc.ca

**At Vanier College: (Dis)Comfort Zones: Negotiating Tensions and Cultivating Belonging in College Classrooms in Quebec – a conference for people working in education**

Montreal, April 19, 2017. The Critical Diversity in Higher Education (CDHE) research team at Vanier College has launched a formal invitation to **(Dis)Comfort Zones: Negotiating Tensions and Cultivating Belonging in College Classrooms in Quebec**, a two-day conference exploring issues of diversity and inclusion in the Cégep system. The event takes place Wednesday, May 17 to Thursday, May 18, 2017 in the Vanier College Auditorium (Room A-103, 821 Sainte-Croix, Montreal, H4L 3X9).

The primary objective of this conference—what we have termed a multi-vocal participatory workshop (MPW)—is to identify and exchange strategies for effectively managing the discomforts that inevitably emerge when individuals from diverse backgrounds encounter and interact with each other in the classroom. In the spirit of conversation, this event intertwines the voices of students, college educators, and experts on different forms of diversity and the pedagogy of discomfort in post-secondary educational institutions. Among the sessions offered are keynote presentations by the University of Toronto's Dr. Megan Boler and the University of Minnesota's Dr. Michael Goh; four panel discussions focusing on race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, culture and religion, and language; a presentation on disability and inclusivity; and a Playback Theatre performance.

This bilingual event, which is co-funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), aims not only to redefine the discussion around the topic of diversity and inclusion in higher education, but also to foster a more holistic perception of campus life and, ultimately, we hope, a greater sense of respect and belonging among both students and educators. With this in mind, we welcome not only post-secondary educators, researchers, administrators, and professionals to attend our conference, but also students, as they are the key stakeholders in this domain.

To register, please visit <http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/psi/discomfort-zones/discomfort-zones-conference-registration/>. We kindly ask that you also disseminate this invitation to your staff, faculty members, colleagues, and students, as well as any other individuals that are interested in the topic of the conference.

We look forward to seeing you at Vanier!