Dear Colleagues,

What a semester it has been thus far—both joyful and challenging, and lots of other things! For sure its time to reconnect with our community for some uplift, inspiration, re/affirmation, restoration, transformation, and radical love. Yup! it’s time again for the CSIEME and Friends Round Robin Dinner! This spring we are transitioning toward calling the dinner the **CSIEME and Friends Sankofa Dinner**.

The idea for the “Round Robin” Dinner came from Christine’s childhood gym class experiences (seriously :')—she would get to play, one-on-one, with every other student in the class through a “round robin” process. When we first started this dinner, it seemed to organically take on that process—though people would initially arrive to the dinner and find a seat, they would quickly (or eventually :) get back up, mix and mingle, and everyone got to know and interact with everyone else! Of course, we want to continue that spirit at the dinner, and also deepen it by incorporating the Sankofa concept.

The Berea College Carter G. Woodson Center describes Sankofa this way: “Sankofa is an African word from the Akan tribe in Ghana. The literal translation of the word and the symbol is ‘it is not taboo to fetch what is at risk of being left behind.’ The word is derived from the words: SAN (return), KO (go), FA (look, seek and take). The Sankofa symbolizes the Akan people’s quest for knowledge among the Akan with the implication that the quest is based on critical examination, and intelligent and patient investigation.”

The Spirituals Project at the University of Denver documents that “Sankofa is a word in the Twi language of Ghana…and also refers to the AsanteAdinkra symbol represented either with a stylized heart shape or by a bird with its head turned backwards carrying a precious egg in its mouth. The Sankofa bird appears frequently in traditional Akan art, and has also been adopted as an important symbol in an African American and African Diaspora context to represent the need to reflect on the past to build a successful future.”

CSIEME aligns with the Sankofa concept in seeking, increasingly: 1) to recover and reclaim indigenous ways of being, knowing, and doing, “re/legitimizing” them within the academy, and making them re-/accessible to the communities from which they are organically derived; and, 2) to decolonize Eurocentric and other hegemonic research and practice canons so they may become more comprehensively and complexly inclusive of all knowledge, reflection, and action (praxis) paradigms, thus more wholly accurate accounts of wisdom.

For those of you new to this dinner—**WELCOME!** For the rest of you—**WELCOME BACK!!**

**For all attendees, the purpose of the dinner is**...to build, deepen, and sustain relationships as a part of a critically loving teacher-scholar-activist community.

**For students, the purpose of this dinner is also**...to discuss, relative to your programs of study, where each of you are, what you have already and still want to accomplish this semester/academic year, and what you need from the community to achieve your goals.

**As always, we will also be celebrating some important milestones** at the dinner, as well as welcoming new members to the community.

As an FYI, this dinner is now organized around:

1) the students that are in the CSIEME specializations at either the doctoral or master’s level (as well as graduates who are still in/visiting the area);
2) the master’s and doctoral students whose committees we chair or on which we sit on as a member (again, as well as graduates); AND,
3) all affiliated/interested “others.”

**The dinner is designed to be inclusive and supportive, not cliquey, so if you know of other colleagues who would like to attend, please invite them and let us know they are coming.** Also, please let us know if we missed someone that you know should be included based on the “organizing” criteria :)

**And, as is always the case, children, significant others, other family and friends are welcome to join us, just let us know they are coming!**

In order to schedule the dinner on the best day and time for the most folks, **please let us know ALL the days and times** you are free and we will confirm the chosen one (based on popularity) ASAP:
Monday, April 2, start time 5:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 5, start time 5:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.

Monday, April 9, start time 5:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 19, start time 5:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. (this would be after the Kimberlé Crenshaw lecture on campus)

Monday, April 23, start time 5:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 26, start time 5:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.

Monday, April 30, start time 5:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 3, start time 5:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.

Monday, May 7, start time 5:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR A NEW PLACE TO HOLD THE DINNER—if you have suggestions (that will accommodate a variety of eaters and are close to UNLV) please feel free to share menu links with us (it will still be Christine’s treat)! We will confirm the location when we confirm the date!

Look forward to bringing old and new folks together in community!

Best,

Christine and Norma

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Opening Pathways/Abriendo Caminos Project
Abriendo Caminos Project In-the-News

"What are the standards that we have? If we're concerned about unarmed truth—understanding that this condition of truth allows the suffering to speak—and unconditional love—understanding that justice is what love looks like in public—then the question is, what suffering voices do we hear...and what kinds of concerns about justice are made manifest...?"

—Cornell West

“Hope is on the march, and love is on the move: this is the Movement, so get moving!”

—The Brothers Ayers