

Honoring Dr. Dexter Gordon's
Visionary Equity Leadership:
Master of Arts in Teaching Candidates
Reflect on Racial Equity in Practice

*Race & Pedagogy Journal:
Teaching and Learning for Justice*



DEDICATION

This Special Student Issue of the Race & Pedagogy Journal,
“Honoring Dr. Dexter Gordon’s Visionary Equity Leadership:
Master of Arts in Teaching Candidates Reflect on Racial Equity in Practice,”

is dedicated to

Dr. Dexter Gordon, Founding Director of the Race & Pedagogy Institute,
Professor of African American Studies and Communication Studies at the
University of Puget Sound from 2002-2021, and now Executive Vice President at
The Evergreen State College



Photo Credit: Ross Mulhausen

*“I love America more than any other country in this world, and,
exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually.”*

James Baldwin

The University of Puget Sound School of Education and the department of African American Studies and the Race & Pedagogy Institute work in partnership to develop intentional and mutually beneficial opportunities for programmatic and curricular collaboration.

Race & Pedagogy Institute Mission Statement



To educate students and teachers at all levels to think critically about race, to cultivate terms and practices for societal transformation, and to act to eliminate racism.

Master of Arts in Teaching Program Goal 3



To prepare teachers to interrogate their personal biases and social location—to actively pursue culturally-responsive practice and to contribute collaboratively to the ongoing work of equity

Our collective work is focused on unearthing, processing, and sitting with racist and historical legacies; imagining generative cross-program collaborations; supporting the ongoing work of the Race & Pedagogy Institute; and grounding teacher education in the specific context of Tacoma's urban education environment. School of Education students, staff, and faculty support the institute by planning conference sessions focused on K-12 teachers and students, presenting at and attending conference sessions, supporting undergraduate students to present their work, and serving as guest editors for the Race & Pedagogy Journal.

University of Puget Sound Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) faculty have created this Special Student Issue to honor Dr. Dexter Gordon for his visionary equity leadership and to mark this moment of transition as Dr. Gordon begins his new role as the Executive Vice President of The Evergreen State College. For two decades Dr. Gordon, in collaboration with Dr. Grace Livingston and the RPI Community Partners Forum, implemented a collaborative process to plan the 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018 Race & Pedagogy National Conferences and to enact curriculum and pedagogical change at the University of Puget Sound and within the MAT program. Dr. Gordon daily models a critical orientation, deep integrity, and an unwavering commitment to equity and justice. Always taking an educational stance, Dr. Gordon supported MAT faculty to critically analyze our larger mission, program goals, curriculum and assessments with an eye to preparing teachers who are prepared to engage race and racism in their teaching.