



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COGNITIVE EDUCATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
IACESA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
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Essentials for learning and life...

Language...Thinking...Diversity...

IACESA Conference Key Note Address



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***Meeting the Hidden Needs of Marginalized Learners:
The Cognitive Enrichment Advantage Approach in a Globalized World***

Globalization is creating challenges in education beyond any experienced in the past world. While many educational approaches strive to address these challenges, few focus on the hidden needs of individual learners, particularly those who are marginalized due to underachievement, disabilities, and/or ethnic difference. Even fewer approaches emphasize a “bottom-up” method of listening to teachers and their learners. The *Cognitive Enrichment Advantage* (CEA) approach is a comprehensive method that integrates effective practices based on wide ranging research and theories of learning. At the same time, CEA varies from other approaches due to our efforts to adapt the approach by listening carefully to the experiences shared by teachers and students who participate in our research. An overview of the CEA approach will be shared and illustrated through comparisons to other cognitive education approaches such as *Thinking Maps* and *Habits of Mind* as well as to recommendations from research on learning. Findings from a phenomenological study of South African teachers of underachieving students will be used to illustrate the importance of listening to teachers’ interpretation of theory when planning professional development activities. In addition, a case study in which teaching and learning was viewed through the lens of Feuerstein’s theory of mediated learning experience will be shared. Findings will be reported and recommendations for improving learning environments will be done.

For more information about the conference and registration visit www.iacesa.co.za