



Critical Questions in Education: Volume 5, Issue 3

The Academy for Educational Studies

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Colleagues and Friends of the Academy:

Before getting to the “why” and the “what” of this second annual special issue of *CQIE*, we want to provide an update on the numerous goings on in the Academy—it has certainly been a busy few months on that count. As you may or may not know, the Academy has gone through some serious growing pains of late, and much like an adolescent growing toward adulthood, these growing pains have pushed us “out of the nest” so to speak. It is with some bitter sweetness that we inform you that *The Academy for Educational Studies* is now an independent, national, non-profit organization.

The bitter part (maybe a bit of an overstatement) comes with our departure from the nest. Missouri State University has supported us in very crucial ways as we have moved to and through our adolescent stage of development. Of particular importance has been the support provided by our Dean, David Hough, who was in large part responsible for the Academy’s birth a decade ago and continues to lend his support as we move toward independence. We will certainly never forget our Missouri State University roots.

The sweetness comes with the Academy’s expanded potential. That potential can already be seen in our decision to host *two* annual national conferences. We very recently held our regular October meeting at the beautiful Brown Hotel in Louisville Kentucky and are very much looking forward to our next one in San Diego this coming February. For the San Diego get together we are excited to have Gary Orfield, Professor of Education at UCLA and co-Director of the Civil Rights Project and Francisco Ramirez, Professor of Comparative Education at Stanford University joining us for two Academy Talk sessions. We look forward to seeing everyone in sunny San Diego. Information about the San Diego conference can be found at our web site: academyforeducationalstudies.org. The Academy is also looking to expand its publishing presence—more on that as we work out the details—suffice it to say that we are very excited about future publishing possibilities.

And, so, why a special issue on homeless youth and schools? Quite simply, the responsibilities that educators, administrators, and school districts have in regard to the education of our most vulnerable youth has for too long gone ignored. For those of us who prepare teachers, we too may feel culpable after reading this special issue given the lack of attention our homeless youth have received in teacher education coursework. The fact of the matter is that we, all of us, have important responsibilities—including legal responsibilities—to ensure that our homeless youth receive the education to which they are entitled. The articles in this collection speak to those responsibilities and the students who deserve our attention, care, and active response. Enjoy...thoughtfully.

PAX,

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