

## **Link 2**

### **Preservice Teacher Preparation**

The second thread of my research explores the ways in which teacher education programs can effectively prepare graduates to work with children from diverse backgrounds. The need for this type of work is critical because statistics indicate that while 40% of the students enrolled in U.S. schools are students of color, over 90% of teachers are White/middle-class and report little experience with diverse cultures. This cultural mismatch between teachers and students poses a serious problem for classroom teaching/learning can disadvantage many minority students. Given that student success in a culturally diverse classroom is related to the teacher's knowledge of and sensitivity to the cultural norms of the community, we as teacher educators must constantly look for new methods by which to effectively prepare teachers to serve students from cultures other than their own.

### **Sample Publications**

Downey, J. (2008). "It's not as easy as it looks": Preservice teachers' insights about teaching emerging from an innovative assignment in Educational Psychology. *Teaching Educational Psychology*, 3, 1, 1-13.

Downey, J. & Cobbs, G. (2007). "I actually learned a lot from this": A field assignment to prepare future preservice math teachers for culturally diverse classrooms. *School Science and Mathematics*, 107, 1, 391-403.