5th Annual Dr. Barbara A. Sizemore
2014 Summer Conference & Award Ceremony
The (Un)Common Core: Pathways to Opportunity or Mechanisms of Social Injustice?

The theme of this year’s 5th Annual Dr. Barbara A. Sizemore 2014 Summer Conference and Award Ceremony is The (Un)Common Core: Pathways to Opportunity or Mechanisms of Social Injustice. As with past conferences, we bring together Duquesne University, the Pittsburgh community, and local and national educators dedicated to the improvement of education for all students and, in particular, the education of students in urban schools.

The intent of the conference is to provide participants with experiences and tools that support their work and as a result, motivate them to continue the work of educating students in urban settings. We hope to achieve this goal by continuing the legacy of Dr. Barbara A. Sizemore. Dr. Sizemore was an educator and researcher who believed and demonstrated that students in urban schools could be effectively educated. However, many of her concerns about the state of education and the educational plight of students in urban schools still resonate today.
Dr. Launcelot Brown, Barbara A. Sizemore Distinguished Professor of Urban Education provided opening remarks at the conference.
Under the direction of Dr. Sandra Quinones, Assistant Professor at Duquesne University, School of Education graduate students prepared research posters on urban education for the conference.
Dr. Darius Prier, Assistant Professor at Duquesne University, was the 2014 Sizemore Spirit Award Winner. The Sizemore Spirit Award is presented to a faculty member whose contributions advance the Sizemore Urban Education Initiative in the School of Education at Duquesne University.
Dr. Launcelot Brown presents the Sizemore Spirit Award to Dr. Darius Prier.
Ms. Brittny McGraw, WPXI News Anchor and conference moderator, facilitates the We Promise program panel of African American males. We Promise program participants discuss how quality urban education advances their eligibility for the Pittsburgh Promise.
Dr. Vanessa Siddle Walker, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Educational Studies at Emory University, delivered the conference keynote address. Her research focuses on the segregated schooling of African American children and the hidden systems of advocacy that promotes equality and justice in their schools.
Dr. Launcelot Brown and Ms. Marimba Milliones, daughter of Dr. Barbara A. Sizemore at the opening keynote address. The Sizemore Urban Initiative at Duquesne University was developed in consultation with the Sizemore family.
Dr. Timothy Austin, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Duquesne University, Dr. Vanessa Siddle Walker, and Dr. Arnetha Ball, Professor of Education at Stanford University and Inaugural Barbara A. Sizemore Distinguished Professor (2009-2012). Dr. Arnetha Ball providing an overview of the research.
Undergraduate students in the Leading Teacher Program at Duquesne University also attended the conference.
Dr. Tyrone Howard, Professor at UCLA in the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies’ Urban Schooling division and Director of Center X, delivered a keynote address centering on the achievement gap facing African American students and the need to provide teachers with the skills and knowledge to reverse that gap.
Dr. H. Richard Milner, IV, Dr. Helen S. Faison Chair in Urban Education and Director of the Center for Urban Education at the University of Pittsburgh, was the afternoon keynote speaker on day two of the conference. His address was entitled *Race, Opportunity and Urban Education: A Moral Call for Equity.*
The Dr. Barbara A. Sizemore 2014 Summer Conference was attended by more than 300 educators, researchers, community and civic leaders, parents, and students.
Dr. Launcelot Brown urged the participants to use the conference sessions to learn strategies to enhance the education of urban learners.
Dr. Elizabeth Hughes, Assistant Professor at Duquesne University, facilitated a workshop entitled *Differentiated Instruction to Meet the Diverse Needs of Students*. 
Dr. Helga Stokes, Visiting Assistant Professor at Duquesne University, facilitated a workshop entitled *Strategies for Inquiry-Based Learning.*
Mrs. Emily Markham, Program Officer of the World Affairs Council, facilitated a workshop entitled *Filling the Opportunity Gap through Global Learning.*
Dr. Sandra Quinones facilitated a workshop entitled *Rethinking Parental/Family Engagement.*
Mr. Sean McCaskill, Educational Consultant, facilitated a workshop entitled *Emotional and Cognitive Behavior Approaches to Changing Behavior.*
Mr. Darryl Wiley, Assistant Director of the INVESTING NOW program at the University of Pittsburgh, facilitated a workshop entitled *STEM Education and College Preparation*. 
Dr. Mary McKinney, Director of the Small Business Development Center at Duquesne University, facilitated a workshop entitled *Teaching Entrepreneurial Skills to Students*.
Ms. Lisa Parker, Mentee of Dr. Barbara A. Sizemore, facilitated a workshop entitled *Building High Self-Esteem through Cultural Awareness.*
Dr. Imac Holmes, Clinical Instructor at Duquesne University, Ms. Rebecca Perry Keenan and Ms. Sierra Brown, doctoral graduate students at Duquesne University, facilitated a workshop entitled *Trauma and Resilience: A Mental Health Workshop for Urban Educators.*
Dr. Tyra Good (pictured right), Consultant at Good Knowledge Connections, facilitated a workshop entitled *Building Relationships with Students to Meet their Learning Needs.*