

Dr. George G. Otero

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EDUCATION

University of Northern Colorado

School of Educational Change and Development
Ed.D., emphasis in global-multicultural education – 1976
Dissertation – Global Issues Units for Middle School

University of New Mexico

School of Education, B.A. in Social Science – 1970

WORK HISTORY

Center for Relational Learning, Santa Fe, New Mexico (1997-present)

[Principal of SunMoon LLC, the business entity for Center for Relational Learning]

Co-director of the Center for Relational Learning, which addresses the future of education by advocating a relational approach to teaching and learning. Specifically, the Center advocates using the Relational Learning concepts and approach with any learning environment that seeks authentic change.

George Otero serves as an international as well as national consultant and trainer, working in Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Dr. George Otero and Associates, Santa Fe, New Mexico (1996-1997)

Creator of Options Development, a consulting organization. Based on service to both the individual and the collective, clients' work with Dr. Otero to mutually identify areas of desired change internally and as expressed in their action in the world. These options are targeted to open new avenues of creativity, renewal, personal growth and professional productivity.

Las Palomas, Multicultural Learning Center, Taos and Santa Fe, New Mexico (1977- present)

Founder and Director of a non-profit residential educational center devoted to innovative educational programs that increase people's understanding of the world, of the art, culture

and history of the Southwest, of creativity and renewal, and of multicultural, global and community education.

Highlights:

- Raised over \$2,00,000.00 in Federal and Foundation grants to support leadership development and school improvement programs. 1979 – present.
- Established the National Center for Community Education and Global Issues. 1990 to present.
- Designed and facilitated over 200 retreats for business, school community and youth groups.
- Created tailored programs and workshops on art, culture, history, education, organizational change, cross-cultural communication, global issues and the spirit of education, directly serving more than 50,000 people ages 8 – 80 and hundreds of organizations.
- Planned program initiatives advocating the benefits of multicultural, global and community education.
- Advanced the concept of school involvement, local control, teacher empowerment and community development throughout the entire Albuquerque Public School system and school districts in New Mexico, Colorado, Arkansas, Iowa, California and New York.
- Co-developed and instituted Global Realities and the Youth Leadership Challenge, a national youth leadership program for high school youth and sponsors from 20 states and Canada. 1986 - 1995.
- Designed, directed and taught graduate level summer workshops for pre-college and college educators on Southwestern Art and Culture, Hispanic Culture, Pueblo Culture, Ethnic Studies and Southwestern Literature. 1978 – 1982.

Mabel Dodge Luhan House, Taos, New Mexico (1978-1996)

(Concurrent with Las Palomas)

Owner of a conference center and bed and breakfast housed in a national historic landmark. Responsible for bringing thousands of people to the house for educational programs that enhance body, mind and spirit.

Center for Teaching International Relations (1975-1978)

University of Denver, Denver, CO

Instructor, Associate, Curriculum Writer, Trainer, Grant Writer and Acting Director for an educational outreach center housed in the Graduate School of International Studies.

Facilitated and taught graduate level professional development courses for educators, wrote and funded several grant proposals, administrated teacher in-service training, wrote dozens of supplementary educational teaching books on global issues and co-created and taught a M.A. program in education with a cognate in international relations.

Goddard Middle School (1970-1974)

Littleton Unified School District. Littleton, CO

Classroom Teacher

Taught Social Studies in grades 5-9. Coached track and soccer.

PUBLICATIONS

West-Burnham, John, Farrar, Maggie and Otero, George (2007). *Schools and Communities Working Together to Transform Children's Lives*, Network Continuum Education, 186 pages. This book combines theory, research and practice to offer an integrated approach to rethinking the relationship between education and the community.

Otero, George (2001) *RelationaLearning: Education for Mind, Body and Spirit*, Hawker Brownlow, Melbourne. 65 p. ("The *RelationaLearning*TM Model provides a fascinating new approach to learning and working together. *RelationaLearning*TM is not a new category or method. It is a radical new look at how relationships make learning possible. *RelationaLearning*TM does not see the student as a computer to be programmed, but as a marvelous blend of mind, body and spirit to be engaged. *RelationaLearning*TM shows educators how to develop effective relationships in the classroom and in the school. This is essential reading for parents, teachers and community leaders.")

Otero, George (2001) *Global Realities and the Youth Leadership Challenge*, Hawker Brownlow, Melbourne. 46 p. ("The world has changed. Growing up has changed. The nature of leadership has changed. This approach should be of interest to anyone who wants to empower young people and inspire them to lead the world into a more humane and just future.")

Otero, George (2001) *What am I Looking At? Teachable Moments on Perception, Cultural Awareness and Understanding*, Hawker Brownlow, Melbourne. 112 p. ("These Teachable Moments are about perception and how we learn about others. In these activities, both students and teachers are asked to better understand what their perceptions of others are, where these perceptions come from, and how these perceptions influence their attitudes and behavior towards others. The activities are intended to focus on student and teacher images of others, how stereotypes function in human thinking, and how we can consciously control what we know and believe about other cultures.")

Otero, George (2001) *Did You Say Six Billion? Teachable Moments on Population, Food and Hunger*, Hawker Brownlow, Melbourne. 88 p. ("Population issues present an opportunity for real study of the self in relation to the whole. This is a key theme in learning to live in a global society. Population is a topic that requires an integrated study

and interdisciplinary skill. The issues require us to think of humanity in its planetary context. Responsible citizens of the global community must get involved.”)

Otero, Preskill, Vermilya (2001) *Skills for Democracy: Promoting Dialogue in Schools*, Hawker Brownlow, Melbourne. 57 p. (“Educational leaders are beginning to understand that in order to increase student achievement, communities and their schools must work together. This means building community, identifying concerns and resources, coordinating participation and planning action together, so that school communities can direct change. This book encompasses strategies, activities, and lesson plans on how to facilitate the process of dialogue with students, schools and communities.”)

Otero, George (2000) *Learning Ain’t What It Used To Be Student Engagement Strategies for the 21st Century*, Hawker Brownlow, Melbourne. 48 p. (“This exciting document has three objectives: (1) to share with teachers the dynamics of the emerging global society and how the classroom can benefit; (2) to provide quick, easy to use, motivational activities that work with current educational requirements; (3) to provide opportunities for playfulness.”)

Townsend, T. & Otero, G. (1999) *The Global Classroom: Activities to Engage Students in Third Millennium Schools*, Hawker Brownlow, Melbourne. 242 p. (“This book provides both a rationale for changing the way in which we implement the curriculum and a series of activities for teachers to use in third millennium schools. The aim is to re-engage students in their learning by focusing on student-centered issues that promote personal, local and global learning. The activities cover the whole curriculum and provide teachers with ways to get students actively involved in their learning.”)

Drum, J., Hughes, S., Otero, G. (1994) *Global Winners: 74 Learning Activities for Inside and Outside the Classroom*, Intercultural Press, Yarmouth, Maine. 211 p. (“This dynamic guide to strategies for global education will be welcomed by teachers, trainers, curriculum supervisors and anyone else concerned with finding effective ways to develop the global perspectives needed for the 21st century. The book contains 74 hands-on exercises, role plays, simulations and other activities for use inside and outside the classroom.”)

Otero, George (1999) *Teachable Moments: Learning to Live in a Global Society*, Hawker Brownlow, and Melbourne Australia. 179 p. (“Teachable Moments is for anyone, but especially teachers and students who wish to probe deeply into beliefs and assumptions about self, community and the world.”)

Other Books/Monographs/Articles

West-Burnham, John and Otero, George (2009) Leadership for Personalising learning: Critical Shifts in Understanding, Center for Strategic Education, February 2009, Seminar Series No. 181.

West-Burnham, John and Otero, George (2004) Educational Leadership and Social Capital, Center For Strategic Education, August 2004, Seminar Series No. 136.

Otero, George (2003) Conversations for School Improvement: The Value of Relational Learning. Australian Principals Centre, Monograph Number 13.

Otero, George and Otero, Susan Chambers (2000) Relational Learning – Towards a Human Ecology in 21st Century Schools. Incorporated Association of Registered Teachers of Victoria, November 2000, Occasional Paper No. 67.

Otero, George (1998) Global and Multicultural Awareness: Education and the Valuing of Diversity. Incorporated Association of Registered Teachers of Victoria, August 1998, Occasional Paper No. 56.

Otero, George (1990) ‘Taos High School’ in Tye, Kenneth (Ed.) *Global Education: School-based Strategies*, Interdependence Press, Orange, California. Pp. 13-22.

Created teaching materials and authored books for educators K-12 concerning global issues, international development, art, culture and state and local history. Titles include: Teaching About Cultural Awareness. CTIR, revised 1994. Teaching About Ethnic Heritage. CTIR, revised 1984. Death, A Part of Life. CTIR, 1979. Hispanic Folk songs of the Southwest. CTIR, 1978. Teaching Reading in the Social Studies. A Global Approach. CTIR, 1977. Teaching New Mexico History and Culture. CTIR, 1977. The Arabs: Perception/Misperceptions. CTIR, 1977. Teaching About Food and Hunger: 33 Activities. CTIR, 1976. Teaching About Population: 54 Activities. CTIR, 1976. Conflict Activity Cards, CTIR, 1975.

Teachable Moments – Creator and co-author of the monthly global education tool that presents approaches to teaching and learning, focusing on six themes including an understanding of world issues and trends, value diversity, increasing state of the art planet awareness and building the capacity to change. Printed and distributed by The Stanley Foundation, Muscatine, Iowa from 1986 to 1992.

YMCA of the U.S.A. – Consulted with international staff and edited YMCA training manual for integrating development education within local YMCA programs and services. 1983 – 1985.

Development of Career Guidance Workshop Manual with the Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, the Private Industry Council and the Albuquerque Public Schools. 1981 – 1983.

Authored eight journal and book articles on Global Education, Multicultural Education, changing the culture of schooling and the spirit of education.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

“Schools and Communities: Working Together to Transform Children’s Lives” at 41st National Conference of the National Community Education Association. Phoenix, Arizona, November 21, 2009.

“Community Education as a Social Justice Issue” at Inaugural International Middle Schooling Conference held in Adelaide, South Australia, July 2002.

“Engaging Middle Years Youth: An International Challenge” at Crossing International Boundaries for Middle Years of Schooling, a traveling international conference featuring leading educators from Australia and the United States, held at Madison Middle School, Albuquerque, New Mexico; October 5, 2001.

Mott Community College, Flint, MI. Keynote speaker, faculty development program in multicultural education. 1992 – 1994.

The American Forum, New York, NY. Keynote speaker, retreat facilitation and teacher training for New York and the World, an interdisciplinary training program for New York City Secondary Teachers. 1991 – 1994.

The Charles Stuart Mott Foundation, Flint, MI. Keynote presentation to International Community Educators Renewal Institute on *“Global Education in a Changing World.”*

National Community Education Association, Washington, DC. Keynote speaker at National Conference in San Antonio, Texas. November 1990. Topic: *“Global Issues and Your Community, What are the Linkages?”*

Wilson Foundation, Rochester, NY. Planned event and gave keynote address at 35th Anniversary Celebration. 1993

Council on Foundations, Washington, DC. Keynote speaker in both 1991 and 1992 for the National Conferences on Family Foundations. Topics: “Breakthrough thinking” and “Creativity and Renewal.”

University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, AK. The Arkansas International Center. Keynote speaker, curriculum presenter, graduate instructor, workshop presenter and retreat facilitator. 1982 – 1992.

Grantmakers in the Arts, Philadelphia, PA. Keynote speaker. 1991. “Broadening the Dialogue”.

CONSULTING AND TRAINING

(Domestic)

Presented nationally at over 500 workshops and retreats in the following subject areas:
Global and Multicultural Education, Issues and Perspectives
Cross-Cultural Communication and Understanding
Team Building
The Culture of School and the Problem of Change
Community Education and Parent Involvement
The Spirit of Education
The Heart of Teaching
Education for the 21st Century

Executive Leadership Council for Community Schools – Consulted and assisted in the development of the Council; worked with nine agencies in Santa Fe County to develop a community schools initiative throughout the County. November 1998 – July 2000.

Value of Citizen Work Conference – Buffalo, MN – Presented dialogue. February 3-4, 2000.

National Center for Community Education – Flint, MI – Designed and coordinated a two-day community education orientation workshop for New Mexico Communities. January 1999.

New Mexico Center for Dispute Resolution – Prepared and delivered two days of training to equip teachers with skills to teach dialog and discussion within their classrooms. March – May 1999.

New Mexico Department of Education – Conducted School Improvement Workshops with Tony Townsend. November 1999.

New Mexico Youth Action Network – Instituted the Network in collaboration with other youth development leaders throughout New Mexico. Fall 1998.

Spiritual Formation Dialogue Group – Conceived and planned activities for The Fetzer Foundation – May 1-3, 1998.

Community Building Institute at Sol y Sombra – Santa Fe, NM – Community mentor in collaborative community leadership. 1995 – 1996.

Stanley Foundation – Muscatine, IA – Consultant, facilitated national meetings, writer. 1984 – 1986.

The Global Crossroads Assembly – Washington, DC – Served on planning Committee for the first national meeting of international educators. 1994.

U.S. West Communications – Denver, CO – Team building and diversity training. 1992 – 1994.

Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (H.A.C.R.) 1993 – 1994. Conducted interviews and facilitated national board meeting. Wrote a report on capacity building for the organization.

National Center for Community Education – Flint, MI – Presenter at 10-day institutes, four times a year. 1990 – present. Topic: Global Matters and Your Community, What are the Linkages?

Cottonwood Printing Company – Albuquerque, NM – Designed and led annual retreats. 1990 – 1994.

Omega Institute – Rhinebeck, NY – Developed and taught Sacred Landscapes course for National Holistic Center. 1989 – 1994.

Montana State University – Bozeman, MT – Facilitated faculty retreat on multicultural education. 1992.

California State University – Turlock, CA – Teacher training on global issues, youth leadership training. 1987 – 1992.

National Teachers Corps CMTI – San Diego, CA – Instructor and Cluster Leader for month long training of new teachers. Summer 1977.

CONSULTING AND TRAINING

(International)

Presented 50 one-day workshops on Student Engagement, Youth Leadership, the Global Classroom and Relational Learning throughout Victoria and South Australia. January 2002, March 2002, August 2001, February 2001, August 2000, February 2000, March 1999, October 1998, May 1998, October 1997.

Learning to Learn Project Expo – Adelaide, South Australia – *Engagement: The Heart of Learning* – Keynote address. August 2001.

World Conference on Community Education – Burnaby, British Columbia – *Skills for Democracy – Promoting Dialogue Throughout the Community, It's All About the Relationships* – Workshop presentations . May 2001.

Second National Middle Years of Schooling Conference – Melbourne, Australia – Workshops on Student Engagement and Relational Learning. August 2000.

International Community Education Association World Conference – Coventry, England – *Global Matters and Your Community: What are the Linkages?*- Keynote address. August 1999.

National Middle Years of Schooling Conference – Melbourne, Australia – *Engagement: Implications for Teachers and Students* – International keynote address. March 1999.

Participation for a Better World – Glasgow, Scotland – Facilitated Open Space two-day workshops on bridging arts and community education – sponsored by the Center for Creative Communities. December 1997.

Canadian Community Education Association Annual Conference – Calgary, Alberta. Keynote address. May 1994.

International Community Education Association World Conference – Trinidad & Tobago – Workshop presentation on the Teachable Moment. July 1992.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Organized first traveling International Conference on middle schooling held in New Mexico; workshops and visits conducted in Farmington, Santa Fe, Laguna, Cimarron and Albuquerque, NM. September 26 through October 5, 2001.

Organized study tour in New Mexico for educational leaders from Victoria, Australia, to share approaches to educational issues such as site-based management, reading recovery and professional development.

National Center for Community Education – Organized a workshop titled, “Creativity and Renewal in an Age of Urgency,” this three-day program has been offered successfully for educators in June 1999, 2000 & 2001.

National Community Education Association – Board Member At Large. Washington, DC. 1992 – 1994. In 1997, received the National Award for Multicultural Leadership.

New Mexico Legislative Education Study Committee – Designed and facilitated five youth forums to bring the views of youth directly to the committee. 1998.

New Mexico Community Education Association – Helped revitalize and reorganize community education association in New Mexico with a focus on the Taos Community. 1992 to present.

New Mexico Endowment for the Humanities – Served as instructor and curriculum trainer for summer teacher institute. June 1998.

After school programming – Supported the development of a model bilingual gifted summer program for Hispanic and Pueblo youth in the Taos Schools. 1989 – 1992.

Taos High Honor Society – Helped young people develop, organize and implement a series of yearly conferences on civic issues. 1983 – 1987.

Elderhostel – Instructor and Director for more than 40 courses. Topics included Global Realities, Art and Culture of the Southwest, Taos in the World, Hispanic Culture and Pueblo Culture. Taos, NM. 1983 –1994.

Danforth Foundation Global Education Linkage System – Funded and directed grants. 1983 – 1984.

Hispanic Culture Foundation – Steering Committee Member and Representative of the arts and humanities for Currents, an arts and humanities program for New Mexico Schools. 1992 – 1993.

Taos High School Honor Society Annual Youth Conference – Secured funding and helped develop annual program for high school youth on global issues. Taos, NM. 1984 – 1989.

PVO-Educator Task Force – Chairperson. Planned and implemented a retreat at Harpers Ferry on Development Education. July 1984.

Colorado Community Media Project – Coordinator and presenter at a workshop series sponsored by the Colorado Humanities Program. 1975.

RECENT GRANTS

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, *New Mexico Community Conversations: A Catalyst for Change from the Inside Out*, a three-year project to support school reform in New Mexico. January 1999 – December 2001. \$105,840

New Mexico State Department of Education, *Goals 2000*, wrote and consulted for a project to use the international research into school effectiveness, school improvement and school reform to implement a focused, community-wide improvement project at De Vargas Middle School, Santa Fe, NM. October 2000 – September 2001. \$32,200.

New Mexico State Department of Education, *Goals 2000*, a project to implement local school reform and teacher-led professional development. October 2000 – September 2001. \$68,000.

U.S. Department of Education, *21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant*, organized and facilitated the development of the number-one rated proposal. March 2000. \$525,000/year for three years.

AWARDS

Award for Special Contribution in Developing Community School Initiatives, United Way of Santa Fe County. 2000

Certificate of Appreciation for Extraordinary Support, Santa Fe Public Schools, 2000

The Multicultural Leadership Awareness Award, National Community Education Association, 1997 – For bringing multicultural perspectives and concerns to community educators across the nation as summarized below:

In 1991, George facilitated a retreat for national leaders in the fields of community and global education to explore connections between their philosophies and consider possibilities for collaboration. In 1992, he began what turned out to be a three-year term as NCEA's at-large board member. In 1993, he established the National Center for Community Education and Global Issues under a grant from the Mott Foundation. He was central to the organization of NCEA's Spring Institute, "Building Sustainable Communities," in 1994. He has been instrumental in establishing the New Mexico Community Education Association (NMCEA) and bringing community education to the public schools in the state. In 1997, he helped create a Goals 2000 Initiative for Parent Involvement in the Schools, a partnership with the New Mexico Department of Education, the Taos Municipal Schools and the NMCEA. George also has made presentations at several NCEA conferences and has co-hosted, housed and developed training for community education groups at the Mabel Dodge Luhan House in Taos, NM.

In the words of his nominator, "Implicit in his work is a deep commitment to multicultural awareness and valuing diversity, and much of his effort has gone to helping minority people find a voice and the strength within themselves to become leaders and collaborators in their own communities...Those who have experienced Dr. Otero remember him by something extraordinary they have learned about themselves.

Certificate of Appreciation - Community Building Institute at Sol y Sombra. 1995 – 1996.