

Kitty Kelly Epstein, PhD

Faculty Trustee & Doctoral Faculty - School of Leadership Studies at Fielding Graduate University
Oakland, CA, US

Activist, organizing for power

Description

Kitty served as Education Director for Mayor Ronald Dellums and led an innovation in democracy called the Task Force Process, which consisted of 41 groups comprised of 800 people whose recommendations helped to shape the administration of Mayor Ron Dellums. In that role, she also worked on diversifying the teaching force, creating innovative youth engagement programs, and altering city policies so that more flatlands residents would be hired on city funded projects. In May 2012, she was named one of the "2012 Powerful Women of the Bay Area" and received community leadership awards from the John George Democratic Club and PUEBLO. Her book, *Organizing to Change A City*, derives from her experiences as an organizer and provides steps and guidance for change.

While teaching English at the Emiliano Zapata Street Academy, a unique public alternative school which was an outgrowth of the civil rights movement, Dr. Epstein received the Marcus Foster Educator of the Year Award. Later, Dr. Epstein published an article on the school called "Miracle School, Child of the Civil Rights Movement" in the widely-read Phi Delta Kappan journal.

Epstein earned a doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley, where she received the Outstanding Dissertation Award and served as a visiting professor. She has prepared hundreds of urban teachers and has supervised the dissertation studies of several dozen doctoral candidates. Her second book, *A Different View of Urban Schools: Civil Rights, Critical Race Theory, and Unexplored Realities* challenges myths and assumptions about urban school districts.

Dr. Epstein has spoken in Nicaragua, China, Jordan, Ethiopia, and South Africa about the creation of effective education programs, particularly for disenfranchised high school students. Kitty is also the host of a bi-weekly radio program, *Education Today*, on which she covers international, national, and local policy issues.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Political Organization, Training and Development, Research

Topics

Action Orientated Research, Leadership & Change, Structural Inequality and Diversity, Research and Action On the Racial Wealth Gap, Resident Engagement in Urban Policy, The History and Impact of Norm-Referenced Standardized Testing, Autoethnography and Participatory Action Research, Critical Race Theory and Emancipatory Pedagogy, Social Justice Movements, Diversifying the K-12 Teaching Force and Higher Education Faculty, International Comparative Education, Teaching Methodology

Affiliations

Oakland Fund for Children and Youth : Board of Directors, Oakland Emiliano Zapata Street Academy : Board of Directors, Governance Board

Past Talks

Presentation

(2012) National Association for Multicultural Education Teacher Diversity Institute

Teaching Strategies for Faculty Effectiveness

(2012) Unity University

Teacher Education Workshop for Nicaraguan Teachers

(2006) Workshop

Education

University of California at Berkeley

PhD Doctoral Studies

San Francisco State University

MA International Relations

San Francisco State University

BA Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

Accomplishments

Marilyn Gittell Scholar Activist Award

(2013) Awarded by the Urban Affairs Association and Sage Publications.

Selected as one of six "Powerful Women of the Bay Area"

(2012) Conferred by a Coalition of San Francisco Bay Area Women's Organizations.

Community Leadership Awards

(2010) Awarded by the John George Democratic Club

Outstanding Dissertation Award

(1988) Awarded by the University of California at Berkeley.

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