

Mary Montle Bacon



Mary Montle Bacon, Ph.D.

Images of a Culture

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Mary Bacon's journey from the projects in the South and tenements in the Northeast to the role of consultant was a varied and exciting one that makes her uniquely prepared both personally and professionally to address issues related to the closing the achievement gap between those who are racially, ethnically and culturally different as well as those who come from the culture of poverty. Educated in elementary and secondary parochial schools in New Orleans and Harlem, she earned a BA in Secondary Education from Fordham University, majoring in Spanish and French, becoming the first one in her family to graduate from elementary school. Graduate education was at

Stanford University where she earned an MA in Guidance and Counseling and a Ph.D. in Social Psychology. Postgraduate work at San Jose State University in Educational Administration and in Special Education Administration at San Francisco State University rounded out her educational preparation for the themes that would shape her life's work.

An experienced teacher, university instructor, counselor, psychologist and school administrator in a variety of educational institutions, Dr. Bacon has also served as a Probation Officer in juvenile halls and community-based programs, ending her career in juvenile justice as a Field Deputy in the California State Attorney's office. For the past two decades, she has conducted keynote addresses and seminars for hundreds of thousands of educators throughout the country and internationally primarily related to serving the most challenged and challenging youth and families in our educational systems. Her firm, Images of a Culture, has served as a consultant to major school districts on the East and West Coasts in implementing multi-year contracts focused on deconstructing negative beliefs about, attitudes toward and expectations of those who are challenged in the educational system and providing strategies for fostering institutional change to ensure equity and equal access to educational opportunities for all.

Dr. Bacon's wide range of personal and professional experiences provided a wealth of experiences that has contributed to her lifelong fascination with working with multicultural populations and experiencing the world from the perspectives of those who bring the rich cultural diversity that characterizes the American experience. She has worked with Puerto Rican and other Latino youth and families on the Lower East Side of New York, with the National Conference of Christians and Jews throughout New York City, with Mexican and other Hispanic youth in Southern California, and with African American children and families in urban and suburban communities throughout the country. In addition, Dr. Bacon has held leadership positions in one of the most advantaged communities in Northern California, lived with families in Spanish-speaking countries, traveled extensively throughout the world, variety of experiences that all have shaped her unique appreciation of difference that resonates with audiences to which she presents.

Just as important, Dr. Bacon is a parent who has managed to maintain a refreshing sense of humor while addressing the challenges of functioning in a culturally pluralistic society. In her personal and professional life, it is clear that each of the threads of her varied background has contributed to her message of strong advocacy for those whose perspectives and strengths often go unrecognized within the environments in which they must function.

