

Criteria for Annual PFDP Social Justice Awards
College of Educational Studies
Chapman University, Orange, CA

The Paulo Freire Democratic Project (PFDP) within the College of Educational Studies is devoted to the development of progressive/critical and ethical/democratic practices within both formal and informal educational settings. Nine fundamental beliefs are central to its mission:

1. All educational processes should be directed toward optimal human development.
2. Through literacy, in its broadest sense of reading the word to read the world, human agents come to know and act upon the world.
3. Education is a political endeavor thus cannot be neutral.
4. The aesthetic is critical for it allows us to see things new, to make the strange familiar and the familiar strange.
5. It is absolutely necessary to reach out for pedagogical engagement with other democratic and justice oriented communities.
6. Participatory action research is essential for educational transformation.
7. Reflection without action is verbalism, alienating “blah” while action without reflection is action for actions sake, thus activism.¹
8. All individuals are capable of deep intellectual and moral thought regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, cultural, and class backgrounds.
9. There is hope, always hope buttressed by tenacity, love, and attention to the long haul.

Tom Wilson
Director
Paulo Freire Democratic Project
April 12, 2011

¹ Freire, P. (2000). Pedagogy of the oppressed. New York. Continuum. Pp. 87-88.