Care before Censure: An Alternative Conversation about Educational Outcomes

This lecture will focus on two important issues in education today: the achievement and discipline gaps. To date, the discussion has focused on the achievement gap, with research looking at the relationships and interactions between teachers and students in improving student achievement, particularly for ethnically diverse students. However, more recent research indicates that the achievement gap needs to be discussed in relationship with the discipline gap, as they are linked and can sometimes emanate from ethnicity biases. Dr Cavanagh will emphasize the importance of these discrepancies, referring to research that considers the systemic causes, the human rights of ethnically diverse students, and an approach he terms a Culture of Care.

Dr. Tom Cavanagh resides in Fort Collins, Colorado, and is on the research faculty of the School of Education at Colorado State University and the teaching faculty with the Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership at Walden University. His specialization is as a research methodologist. In 2004-2005 he spent a year in New Zealand on a Fulbright Fellowship, followed by four more years in that country working on a project called Te Kotahitanga, which focused on raising Maori student achievement. His research interests focus on the areas of restorative practices in schools.