

Drs. Beatrice S. and David I. Miller
Education Seminar Series -
Indiana University School of Education

DR. JAMES A. BANKS

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**Thursday, September 28th
11:00 am**

Wilkie Auditorium
Reception to Follow

“EDUCATING COSMOPOLITAN CITIZENS IN A DIVERSE AND CHANGING WORLD”

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT:

Conceptions of citizenship and citizenship education are being challenged by a number of historical, political, social, and cultural developments that have occurred around the world since World War II. Institutionalized notions of citizenship have been vigorously contested since ethnic revitalization movements arose in the 1960s and 1970s. Worldwide immigration, the challenges to nation states that have been wrought by globalization, and the tenacity of nationalism and national borders have stimulated debate, controversy, and rethinking about citizenship and citizenship education.

I will describe traditional conceptions of citizenship education, state why these concepts need to be interrogated, and argue that citizenship and citizenship education should be expanded to include cultural rights for citizens from diverse racial, cultural, ethnic, and language groups. Traditional notions of citizenship assumed that individuals from different groups had to give up their home and community cultures and languages in order to attain inclusion and participate effectively in the national civic culture.

Informed by the work of political and citizenship theorists such as Will Kymlicka, Amy Gutmann, and Iris Marion Young, I will argue that an effective citizenship education helps students to acquire the knowledge, skills, and values needed to function effectively within their cultural communities, nation states, regions, and the global community. It also helps students to acquire cosmopolitan perspectives and values needed to work to attain equality and social justice for people around the world. In the final part of my talk— which draws upon empirical evidence— I will describe ways in which schools can implement a transformative and critical conception of citizenship education that will enhance educational equality for all students.

PROFESSOR JAMES A. BANKS HAS BEEN A RESEARCHER AND LEADER IN EFFORTS TO INCREASE EDUCATIONAL EQUALITY FOR ALL STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD FOR MORE THAN THREE DECADES. AS A FIFTH GRADE TEACHER IN CHICAGO, THEN AS A GRADUATE STUDENT AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, AND AS A PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON BEGINNING IN 1969, BANKS HAS PURSUED QUESTIONS RELATED TO EDUCATION, RACIAL INEQUALITY, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN MORE THAN 100 JOURNAL ARTICLES AND 20 BOOKS. HIS BOOK, *DIVERSITY AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES*, EXAMINES THE UNITY-DIVERSITY TENSION IN 12 NATIONS. HIS MOST RECENT BOOK IS *RACE, CULTURE, AND EDUCATION: THE SELECTED WORKS OF JAMES A. BANKS* (ROUTLEDGE, 2006).

