

# Rural Poverty Challenge: Achieving Equity Literacy



Paul C. Gorski is an associate professor of Integrative Studies at George Mason University and the founder of EdChange. He has written several books and articles, with recent work focused on how educators can develop equitable learning environments for students in poverty.

CESA 5 is excited to welcome back Mr. Paul Gorski, the foremost expert on reaching and teaching students in poverty. Mr. Gorski's 2016 presentation will address the complexities of our rural schools and communities in poverty. This workshop seeks to create a learning experience that connects, inspires, and engages participants through active discussion and interaction.

Too often, approaches for creating equitable learning environments for students in poverty focus on understanding a make-believe "culture of poverty"- the idea that all low-income people have the same values and beliefs. If we want to shrink the economic achievement gap, we need to begin with an approach built around a more robust set of knowledge and skills.

The event will focus on developing our equity literacy, which means focusing, not simply on identifying the supposed "deficits" in low-income families, but rather on understanding how the barriers that students in poverty face inside and outside schools- the biases, the inequitable access to opportunity--affect their school performance. With this knowledge in mind, we will discuss research-backed strategies for what we can do in our own classrooms and schools to create more empowering conditions for our most marginalized students.

**November 9, 2016**

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Great Wolf Lodge in Wisconsin Dells

Price: \$175 for CESA 5 School Improvement Services Members

\$250 All Others

To register:



Questions? Contact:  
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*Suggested Audience: Instructional staff working with students in poverty, Administrators, Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, School Counselors, Classroom and Content Teachers, Title I Teachers, Interventionists, Social Workers, School Psychologists*