

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **SUMMER AUTHORS NIGHTS HEAT UP FOR TALKS EXPLORING SOCIAL JUSTICE IN EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITIES**

Arizona Humanities will host Dr. Ann Aviles de Bradley on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>  
and Dr. David Omotoso Stovall on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

**Phoenix, AZ** – The public is invited to join Arizona Humanities (AH) and la Phoenikera Writers' Guild for two engaging presentations exploring social justice in educational communities. Dr. Ann Aviles de Bradley will discuss educational systems serving homeless youth, and Dr. David Omotoso Stovall will examine university community outreach. Both events are free, open to the public, and will take place at Arizona Humanities (1242 N. Central Ave – Phoenix, AZ 85004). Seating is limited and guests are encouraged to RSVP at [www.azhumanities.org](http://www.azhumanities.org) or by calling 602-257-0335. Books will be available for order and signing.

**Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** - **Dr. Ann Aviles de Bradley**, *Assistant Professor at Northeastern Illinois University*, will talk about the history of The McKinney-Vento Act and its effect on homeless students. The McKinney-Vento Act of 1987 was created to ensure schools provide services that support students in unstable housing situations, and its implementation has involved continued scrutiny and struggle. Dr. Aviles de Bradley will also discuss her interviews with youth experiencing homelessness featured in her upcoming book [\*From Charity to Equity—Race, Homelessness, and Urban Schools\*](#).

**Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00-8:00p.m.** - **Dr. David Omotoso Stovall**, *University of Illinois at Chicago Professor*, will discuss his book, *Born Out of Struggle: Critical Race Theory, School Creation and the Politics of Interruption*. Dr. Stovall examines the contentious history of university outreach, how universities develop relationships in communities, and the oftentimes disruptive effects this has on a community's own self-determination. Hear from Dr. Stovall illuminate the responsibility of university faculty and the challenges that arise from being a concerned community member and university professor.

For questions, please contact Ellie Hutchison, Arizona Humanities Programs Manager at 602-257-0335 x26 or [ehutchison@azhumanities.org](mailto:ehutchison@azhumanities.org).

### **BIO INFORMATION**



**Ann Aviles de Bradley** is an Assistant Professor in the department of Educational Inquiry and Curriculum Studies at Northeastern Illinois University teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in the Educational Foundations program. She works with various community based organizations across the Chicagoland area to address educational inequities, specifically those concerning race, class and homelessness. Dr. Aviles de Bradley is the author of an upcoming book from Teachers College Press, entitled *From Charity to Equity: Race, Homelessness and Urban Schools*.



**David Omotoso Stovall** is Associate Professor of Educational Policy Studies and African-American Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. His scholarship investigates Critical Race Theory, concepts of social justice in education, the relationship between housing and education, and the relationship between schools and community stakeholders. In the attempt to bring theory to action, he has spent the last ten years working with community

organizations and schools to develop curriculum that address issues of social justice. He also works with a collective of college professors in California, Arizona, and New York who teach high school courses in addition to their duties and responsibilities as university faculty. He is a member of the Greater Lawndale/Little Village School of Social Justice High School design team, which opened in the Fall of 2005, where he also serves as a volunteer social studies teacher. Professor Stovall is a founding member of Chicago Grassroots Curriculum Taskforce, a local collective of school and community-based educators with the specific goal of disseminating and creating K-16 curriculum for Chicago residents and future teachers, and a member of I-SEED (Institute for Sustainable Economic and Educational Development), a national/international collective of youth, K-16 educators, and community activists aimed at developing sustainable economic and educational plans for historically marginalized, under-resourced and disinvested communities. A Chicago native, Professor Stovall's motivation for going into the field was the combination of family members, neighbors, and members of community organizations that supported him in doing educational justice work without fear of persecution.

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**About Arizona Humanities**  
<http://www.azhumanities.org>

Arizona Humanities (formerly the Arizona Humanities Council) is an independent non-profit organization and the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. We support public programming in the humanities that promotes understanding of human thoughts, actions, creations, and values. Since its foundation in 1973, nearly \$11 million has been provided to cultural and educational institutions throughout Arizona.

Mission: Arizona Humanities builds a just and civil society by creating opportunities to explore our shared human experiences through discussion, learning and reflection.

**About la Phoenikera Writers' Guild (laPWG)**  
<http://www.laphoenikerawritersguild.org>

la Phoenikera Writers' Guild (laPWG) offers programming that promotes intergenerational and intercultural dialogue outside of the university setting. laPWG strives to offer a safe space for all individuals in order to improve written, oral, and visual literacies in the Phoenix area. All classes, special events, and workshops are designed to engage participants in a larger dialogue about current events through the examination of classic and contemporary literature. Instructors introduce critical thought for novice and professional writers of all ages, creating a forum for participants to develop and expand their work beyond the walls of laPWG.



Through these endeavors, laPWG seeks to help local writers master various levels of craft, become contributing voices in the community, engage in social activism, publish their work, and develop teaching and writing partnerships within the greater Phoenix area.