**Open Your Class with This Tomorrow**

**The Culturally Inclusive Educator**

**Some tips for Creating a Culturally Inclusive Classroom**

1. Be aware of your own biases. While these may not be intentional, they are derived from one’s own gender, racial, cultural and socioeconomic background.
2. Be cognizant of potential microaggressions and try to avoid these. Do not make assumptions about students based on what you believe to be true, this can lead to stereotyping and cause the student to feel like an outsider in your classroom.
3. Acknowledge that students of different backgrounds may learn and participate differently in class based on their prior experiences. Present lessons in a variety of formats to allow for individual participation and group or partner work. Also, try to build student choice into assignments so that students can demonstrate their knowledge in a manner in which they are comfortable and confident in what they know.
4. Immediately address any instances of students harassing or joking with others to demonstrate that this behavior will not be accepted or tolerated in your classroom.
5. Rather than avoiding difficult topics, address them, and acknowledge that a goal should be that all students (and people beyond the classroom) should be treated fairly and be given the same opportunities for success.
6. Acknowledge student’s individual differences but do not make them the sole representative of their race, gender or sexual orientation.
7. Have positive expectations that all students should have a positive learning experience in your classroom, with that as your goal be cognizant of your words, lessons, and the environment you are creating to accomplish this goal.
8. Take the time to correctly pronounce each student’s name even before the first day of class so that names that are unfamiliar to you do not stand out as “different” when going through the list of names.
9. Recognize that you do not have all of the answers and seek out help from others who may have more expertise.
10. Accept that this will not be perfect as we all learn to create more inclusive classrooms. Some of the best lessons may come from not doing something right the first time.