***ACHIEVING CHORAL EXCELLENCE IN CULTURALLY DIVERSE SETTINGS***

***Fact or Fiction***

**Overview:**

Regardless of ethnicity, community, or socio-economic strata, choir kids are choir kids!

* Our job is to teach them
* Embrace your situation
* Use effective strategies
* Make success the goal
* Census data as compared to the entire nation
* Faster growing
* Younger
* More diverse
* Rapid demographic changes and education
* Challenges
* Far reaching implications
* Music education is not immune
* Paradigm for the choral music classroom has changed
* Diverse nature of our communities (cultural and socio-economic)
* Dwindling funds for music in our schools
* Contemporary vocal models
* Same strategies may no longer be effective
* Re-evaluate
* What works?
* Situational teaching
* Make it relevant
* Make it nurturing
* Make it accessible
* Make it “a home away from home”
* Make it distinctive
* Set high standards
* Expect them to succeed
* The face of our profession
* Does not match our state demographics
* Embrace and encourage change

**Thoughts from directors in the “real world”:**

**Edie Cooksey**

* Madison HS in San Antonio is the largest Agriculture Magnet Program in the state of Texas
* “You gotta know the territory”
* Build a foundation
* Forge a relationship
* Make it home and be a good parent
* Be a problem solver
* Expect success

**Steffanie Dean**

* Westfield HS in Houston is highly competitive in sports and located in a very diverse, low socio-economic neighborhood
* Respect and Leadership - students
* Understanding and cultural relevance – parents
* Respect and honesty – classroom management
* Honesty, accessibility, and consistent- pedagogy
* Set high standards – students WILL meet them
* Expect success
* Accountability, success and pride

**Cheryl Wilson**

* Garland HS in Dallas is Title I (at risk, low income school) and a Gifted &Talented Magnet
* Many faces – many challenges
* Love what we do
* Connect with middle school choir students
* High expectations
* Fair and consistent
* Teach for success – expect success

At this point, you should be seeing a “pattern for success”!

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