

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK SCHOOL EDUCATORS
2008 Annual Conference
RESEARCH ROUNDTABLES PRESENTATION
Session #2

GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER

ATLANTA, GA

Friday, November 21, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Room B-314

Session Title: Applying Neuroscience Research to Increase Minority Student Performance and Close the Achievement Gap

Presenters

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Facilitators

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Abstract

Can we improve student learning performance through accelerating specific brain functions? Closing the achievement gap has become a national call for school districts. Advances in neuroscience over the last 30 years have created the potential to significantly close this gap for education. In what is known as the concept of *brain plasticity*, scientists proved that the application of specific, targeted learning paradigms can change the activity patterns of neurons, which are the fundamental processing elements of the brain. Results demonstrate significant improvement in moving struggling students one, two or even three proficiency levels. Scientific Learning has successfully improved the core cognitive and linguistic attributes -- memory, attention, processing rate, and sequencing -- that define a student's ability to benefit from classroom instruction through random control trials, quantitative and qualitative research designs. Research will be provided on effects of the program on student achievement, results on student sub-groups, and district implementation strategies.

Target Audience

Superintendents, assistant superintendents, assessment/accountability directors, curriculum staff, leadership development specialist, principals, and other building administrators