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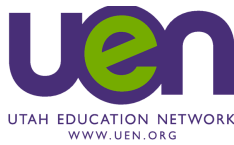
GROUNDBREAKING EDUCATOR RAPS TO LET STUDENTS KNOW SCIENCE IS HIP

Dr. Christopher Emdin Shares Expertise with Utah Teachers on
Incorporating HIP HOP Culture in the Classroom to Inspire Learning



August 30, 2012 (Salt Lake City, UT) – It's not hard to find study after study indicating junior high and high school students across the county are significantly losing interest in the sciences and mathematics and are not performing to expected educational standards. This trend doesn't sit well with a Columbia University professor who is telling teachers to try new ways of engagement through the popular rap language and Hip-Hop culture.

Based on a decade of research, including pre- and post- studies, around the globe, and steeped in the STEM practices, Dr. Christopher Emdin, assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics, Science and Technology at Teachers College, Columbia University, and the director of Secondary School Initiatives at the Urban Science Education Center, argues that the Hip-Hop culture can bring effective and successful



elements of instruction into the classroom only if teachers are willing to try new methods.

“You want positive emotional energy surrounding science,” said Dr. Emdin. “And all of these attributes that you want in the science class room happens when they’re involved in the hip-hop culture. We are seeing good results. Where kids were failing, they are now putting the two together (science and song) and beginning to improve.”

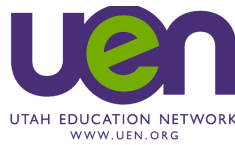
Dr. Emdin holds a Ph.D. in Urban Education with a concentration in mathematics, science and technology, Masters degrees in both natural sciences, and education administration, and Bachelors degrees in physical anthropology, biology, and chemistry. He is the author of the book, *Urban Science Education for the Hip-Hop Generation*, and also a columnist for the Huffington Post, where he writes the "Emdin 5" series.

What makes Hip - Hop such a compelling model for teaching science? According to Dr. Emdin, the art knows how to bridge cultural divides, it provides a comfortable beginning space to spark discussions, and it uses interactions and technology to connect with an audience.

“The most prolific rappers have certain characteristics, they are engaging, have personality, and use metaphor analogy—all excellent traits to teach science,” said Dr. Emdin. “Rappers use statements to create the context of an idea and then it is up to the audience to make the connections, but it’s all based in analogy. This is very similar to the cause and relative analogies used when teaching science.”

Dr. Emdin will be in Salt Lake City September 4-6th and will be the featured speaker for the CI-WATER Symposium at the Rio Tinto Center at Natural History Museum of Utah, presenting *Teaching a New Way: Science and the Hip-Hop Generation*. The symposium is part of the CI-WATER community outreach efforts, headed by the Utah Education Network (UEN), and the Museum, and is geared toward teachers with the focus on best practices in the classroom. The presentation is free, but registration is required and space is limited. More details can be found at http://ci-water.org/symposium/education_event.html

CI-WATER is a \$6 million, three-year award from the National Science Foundation to, among many goals, build a high performance computer cluster to run simulations of large watersheds such as the upper Colorado River basin, develop a new hydrology model fast enough to simulate “what if” scenarios for the public and government officials to use with planning of critical services, integrate local, regional, and national data in a large system at the University of Utah (all data in one place), and support K-12 teachers with workshops, and new curricula to teach rigorous and engaging science at all levels. More information at <http://ci-water.org/>



In addition to being the keynote speaker, Dr. Emdin will be presenting at the University of Utah and at several high schools across the valley during his visit. The schedule is below and members of the media are invited to all presentations. Dr. Emdin and UEN representatives will be available for interviews.

September 4th

Presentation to pre-service teachers at the University of Utah
U of U Union Theatre
200 S. Central Campus Dr.
6:30 to 8:00 pm

September 5th

Salt Lake Center for Science Education
1400 Goodwin Avenue
Salt Lake City
9:30 to 10:30 am

City Academy Charter School
555 East 200 South
3:15 to 4:30 pm

CI-WATER Symposium – Keynote presentation and book signing
Natural History Museum of Utah
301 Wakara Way
6:30 to 8:30 pm

September 6th

Highland High School
2166 South 1700 East
Salt Lake City
7:45 to 9:15 am

West High School
241 North 300 West
Salt Lake City
1:00 to 3:00 pm

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