

By Dr Patrick C. Coggins, PhD, JD, LLD (Hon.) Jessie Ball DuPont Endowed Chair Professor & Director of Multicultural Education Institute, Stetson University, DeLand, Florida.

Dr. Patrick C. Coggins, a native of Georgetown, Guyana is a distinguished professor and author whose influence extends beyond academic into the state, national and international dimensions. Being a South American has underscored his perspective that society must ensure that all individuals are provided with adequate education and health care opportunities to pursue a successful life wherever they choose to live and work.

He is the Founder/Director of the Multicultural Education Institute that provides training and consultation on Managing Cultural Diversity in the schools and workplaces. He focuses on Counseling Substance abuse and other clients from a Cultural Perspective, Cultural Diversity training for Counselors, Administrators and Policy Makers in medical, human and other services. Dr Coggins was the Administrator of the Hill Health Center and the Drug Dependency Institute of Yale University Medical School. He has provided training and consultation to Morehouse Medical School and Emory Medical School on "Valuing Cultural Competence in the delivery of Health Care services. He conducted workshop for health care doctors and nurses and other health department professionals in the counties of Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Hillsborough, Orange and Pinellas. He has served as a consultant on Cultural Competence, Alcohol and substance abuse issues to several federal agencies of the united states including the Center For Substance Abuse Treatment, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention SAMHSA and the National Institute on Drug Abuse where he served as regional director for the New England states working with the states on training of Substance abuse personnel. He was credited with authoring two volumes entitled "Confidentiality of Drug Abuse Treatment, 1980.

Dr. Coggins heads the Multicultural Education Institute since 1991. He is the Distinguished Professor of Social Justice who devotes his time to research and teaching cultural diversity issues including Teaching Minority Students, Using Cultural Competence to Close the Achievement Gap, Strategies for Increasing managing Cultural Competence in the workplace, effective strategies for treating diverse substance abuse and HIV/AIDS clients, As a consultant to the National Education Association, Washington, D.C., he works on the KEYS project addressing the achievement gap. He has served as Eminent Scholar in residence for Palm Beach School District where he developed the frameworks for teaching Multicultural Education, African American history, and multicultural and Hispanic studies. He consults with health care departments, government agencies and schools on how to enhance Cultural Competence.