

From: susan bowen <revealvt@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 7:11 PM
To: Jepson, Lyle <Lyle.Jepson@vermont.gov>
Subject: Secretary of Education job posting

Dear Mr. Jepson,
If I have the incorrect Lyle Jepson - my apologies.

Regarding the Press Release for the Sec of Ed Job Opportunity listing/wording you list :

" Moreover, the Secretary will be deeply committed to promoting **diversity, equity, and inclusion** within the Agency of Education and all Vermont schools, fostering a learning environment that is welcoming and supportive for all. "

DEI is getting a lot of bad press these days. Personally I do not want my tax dollars paying for DEI in Vermont Schools.

Many people are very concerned about the "soft racism" that DEI promotes. When we concern ourselves with Diversity and Inclusion it ends up being reverse racism and soft racism which says to a "minority " that they are not worthy or good enough to make it on their own and that systemically they will fail... oh but it is not their fault.

On one hand they may be correct, it may be your fault for not believing in them for not supporting them as equals and seeing themselves as equals.

"Equal" does not mean there aren't differences. There are differences in all of us and nothing can create the equality that DEI falsely and destructively promotes.

In my world we tell our students they can achieve anything they want to achieve no matter what. We tell our students to be the harbingers of the American Dream and uphold our Declaration of Independence for it states *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.* (Men is all-encompassing to HUMAN BEINGS.)

In my world: We tell our students that it is difficult to always get to their dreams and they may be disappointed along the way but they are to be lifted up to find what they can do and find the mentors to help them achieve their goals.

I am a woman but I do not play that "woman card" as being something that I would allow to keep me poor. Oprah did not play her "race card" and allow that to keep her poor.

It may be time you study the words of Thomas Sowell <http://tsowell.com/> (a successful black man.)

Here is an article in the VDC that you may want to read in order to find out what a majority of Vermonters feel. Please read the comments as well.

<https://vermontdailychronicle.com/secretary-of-education-job-posting-is-revealing/>

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Susan Bowen, LE, CLT

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