

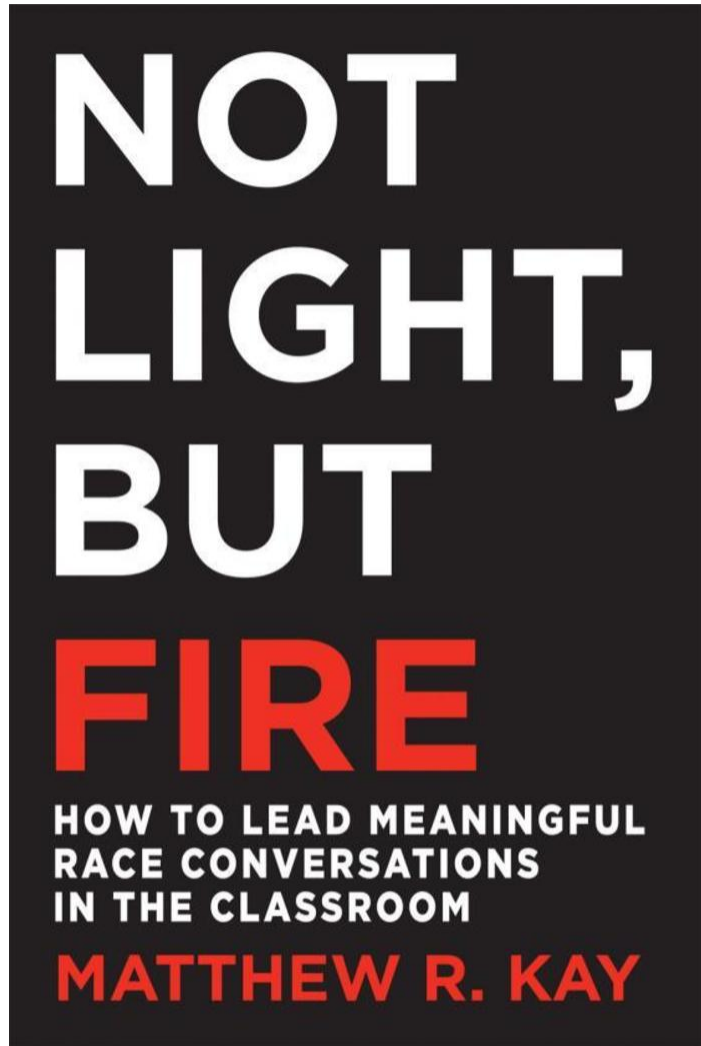


**UNC**

**Center for  
Urban Education**

**Leadership Council Chronicle**

August 2021



**Thanks to Chevron  
for a Generous  
Donation**

Thanks to the leaders at Chevron for their generous \$10,000 gift to our teacher preparation program. With these funds, we will be able to award four \$2,500 scholarships to current CUE teacher candidates. The gift will provide much-needed financial support to the deserving awardees, and we are so grateful for the support!

Watch our [short video](#) to learn more about the CUE teacher preparation program.

[Watch Video](#)

**Learning to Facilitate Classroom Conversations about Race**

In late July of this year, [UNC Center for Urban Education](#) (CUE) launched a book study group with the Center’s faculty and mentors. The group—which is meeting in person now that the campus is open again—is reading *Not Light, but Fire: How to Lead Meaningful Race Conversations in the Classroom* by Matthew R. Kay. “We continuously look for resources that support excellent teaching and provide opportunities for our professors and mentors to keep learning,” said CUE Director Dr. Rosanne Fulton.

In *Not Light, but Fire*, the author guides teachers through the process of facilitating difficult conversations about race. He describes how to make the topic approachable and help the students feel safe. He emphasizes history and culture and encourages teachers to develop a sense of community through storytelling about race, diversity, and social justice.

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*Develop a sense of community through storytelling about race, diversity, and social justice.*

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Fulton noted, “Kay teaches how to build trust and orchestrate conversations that matter—in the large group, in small groups, and one on one.” The author states that one-on-one conversations often encourage students to, “...engage a secret, scholarly self that would have otherwise been buried.”

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“The author honors students and reminds us that the teacher isn’t all-knowing,” said Fulton. After the group is finished reading the book, Fulton will follow up by asking each participant to evaluate and share the changes they’ve made to their teaching methods and practices as a result of reading the book. “That way, we’re consciously evolving and learning from each other,” said Fulton.

The CUE faculty members thank the Professional Development Committee and Lyda McCartin on the UNC main campus for donating the funds to buy the books for our study.

**Tamarac Optimists Club Awards Scholarships to CUE Students**

Jade Pedroza and Megan Himebaugh were each awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by the Tamarac Optimists Club. The Club recognizes two CUE students each year for their accomplishments and drive. The funds were added to these teacher candidates’ UNC financial aid accounts and will be used to pay tuition for the 2021–22 academic year.



Jade Pedroza and Megan Himebaugh

Himebaugh is earning her degree in Special Education and intends to pursue a master’s degree in that discipline as well. Pedroza is earning her degree in Elementary Education. Along with the two award recipients, CUE Director Dr. Rosanne Fulton addressed the Club members in July.

“Jade is insightful and hardworking, and Megan is such an amazing teacher who cares about every single student,” said Fulton. “They certainly deserve this recognition, and we are all grateful for the support of Carol West and the Tamarac Optimists Club.”



Pedroza and Himebaugh, with Tamarac Optimists Club representative Carol West (left) and CUE Director Dr. Rosanne Fulton (right)

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**Contact Us**

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