Abstract:
In this lecture, I will describe how teacher self understanding serves as a foundation for multicultural education. I will define self-knowledge and describe how it can serve as a basis for creating contexts for multicultural engagement. I will describe a typical course in the U.S.A. in which teachers critically reflect on media, biographies, their personal narratives, and professional application projects. Media, biographies, professional application projects, and personal narratives are powerful sources for deepening self-knowledge and for posing critical questions about difference and diversity. Comments from teachers will be woven throughout the lecture to illustrate insights that can be gained through critical self-reflection. The lecture ends with lessons I’ve learned teaching multicultural education courses in the U.S.A.

About the Speaker:
Cherry A. McGee Banks is a founding faculty member in the School of Educational Studies and Professor of Education at the University of Washington, Bothell. In 1997, she received the Distinguished Teaching Award from the University of Washington, Bothell and in 2000 she was named a Worthington Distinguished Professor. Her research focuses on intergroup education and the role that public school educators played in the early 20th century to link schools to communities and help students and parents embrace democratic ideals. Professor Banks has contributed to such journals as the Phi Delta Kappan, Social Studies and the Young Learner, Educational Policy, Theory Into Practice, and Social Education. Professor Banks is associate editor of the Handbook of Research on Multicultural Education, coeditor of Multicultural Education: Issues and Perspectives, co-author of Teaching Strategies for the Social Studies and author of Improving Multicultural Education: Lessons From the Intergroup Education Movement. She has also served on several national committees and boards including the American Educational Research Journal’s editorial board, the Board of Examiners for the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, and the AERA Books Editorial Board. At the local level she has served as a past president of the Greater Seattle chapter of the Links, Inc., chair of the Shoreline Community College Board of Trustees, a member of the Board of the Washington Women’s Foundation, and a member of the Seattle Art Museum Education & Community Engagement Committee.

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