



End-of-the-Year AHTOCC Dinner took place Sweet Basil Thai Cuisine on May 30th.

As the end of the school year winds down, we hope this newsletter finds you well. It is hard to believe that another year is over. This year, we have been processing on how to build capacity. How do we carry the weight of our jobs? How do we advocate for teacher diversity? How do we sustain ourselves while doing all this work? It is heavy, but the time spent together this year reminds us that we are here. We are not only teachers but caregivers, coaches, mentors, artists, scholars and organizers. We are creative thinkers, grounded in our own communities and families that have endured and resisted. Coming together validates our full selves. And while individualist and capitalists notions place greater value on setting agendas and producing tangible outcomes, we need to remind ourselves the radical and powerful work of taking time to listen and care for one another in an education system that lacks support systems of love and community. Through our ability to build trust in one another and ourselves, we can work collectively and with sustainability in pushing forth needs in our profession. We hope that you take this summer to care for yourself and the people around you; to remind yourself of why we are in this work; and to find joy in the things we have saved for summer.

Networking and Branching Out

This year, many AHTOCC members found ways to plug into the larger community of teachers of color and allies across the Twin Cities. Some teachers sought us out, asking for guidance in creating their own affinity space in their school district. This year, we have learned that school districts such as Wayzata, Eden Prairie, Hopkins and Rochester have also started their own affinity spaces. In these collaborations, we have been able to pass along our own lessons and growing pains in our journey of AHTOCC. We have also felt the care and support from others, who teach and remind us why this work is important.



AHTOCC's collaboration with Augsburg has been a great way to connect with teachers and teacher candidates across the metro. Taught by Angelina and Meng, they created spaces to vent, read scholarship and build strategies to sustain teachers. In March, AHTOCC and Augsburg joined together to talk about our work environments and network. Staff and students at Champlin Park provided dinner and childcare while teachers enjoyed each other's company. It was valuable to hear perspectives from teachers outside of Anoka-Hennepin, hearing about their unique challenges and work climates.

In April, Meng and Verna facilitated a professional development with FOCUS, Roseville's affinity group. The session entitled "Connecting our Stories to Community Cultural Wealth" was welcomed by a large group of hilarious, brilliant, passionate educators who affirmed the values and histories that have been integral to our communities. That evening, we heard from educational leaders share about white fragility, decolonial strategies, and models of building at the Augsburg class. These networks are reminders that we are a part larger community, and we collectively have what it takes to push forward.



Summer Seminar

There is still work to be done! This summer we are excited to have a group of AHTOCC members attend Education Minnesota's Summer Seminar. There will be an [organizing track for teachers of color](#), led by a wonderful team at Education Minnesota. Our cohort will build strategies to engage our systems alongside other members of color. Our teachers have been meeting to address concerns regarding teacher retention, brainstorming strategies that can hold our administrations accountable. We will be losing a handful of AHTOCC members at the end of this school year, and it's important to unpack how and why, and also begin to act. If you are interested in attending Summer Seminar, [register here](#). Let us know so we can connect you with the group attending. Registration and boarding will be covered through AHM.

Thank You for following and participating in AHTOCC this year! Thank you for believing in this work and caring for students, their families and ourselves. We are looking forward to another year together. Have a wonderful summer.

The Anoka-Hennepin Teachers of Color Coalition is a collective of teachers of color dedicated to their own personal and collective empowerment through advocacy, mentorship, and partnership. [Click here](#) to visit our website.