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SIXTH ANNUAL  
**SYMPOSIUM ON FAIRNESS AND EQUITY ISSUES  
IN CHILD WELFARE TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

***Interactive Workshop***  
**Raising Our Consciousness about Issues of Class**  
Felice Yeskel, Ed.D, *Founder and Executive Director of Class*

Summary  
April 17, 2008

Dr. Yeskel introduced the interactive workshop by exploring the biases that exist within all of us and how these affect the way we read others. A variety of different class indicators were discussed in terms of judgments and assumptions that are often made on the basis of such characteristics. The conversation illustrated that everyone carries such biases based on class, with or without one's conscious awareness. Through Dr. Yeskel's discussion and examples, it became evident that everyone has perceptions of others based on verbal and nonverbal cues that lead to conclusions about class affiliations. Dr. Yeskel stressed that awareness of our biases is the first step to overcoming erroneous judgments and assumptions about others.

Throughout the workshop, Dr. Yeskel expressed the notion that different classes have distinct cultures. When the child welfare field addresses cultural competency, it is essential that class and classism are included in the discussion. The concepts of class and classism must be considered on both macro and inter-personal levels in order to create and promote best practices in the field.