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OU Professor's music video opens dialog about diversity and inclusion

An Oakland University School of Education and Human Services professor has partnered with the Rochester School District to create a **You Tube music video** that celebrates cultural diversity and inclusion.

Anthony Tuf Francis, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of education in Teacher Development and Education Studies. He has also been a musician for more than 20 years. Now, he has combined his profession and his passion to write and record his original song "**To the Party,**" hoping that it will communicate a critical message to the wider community.

"The party in the video represents a place where people of all cultures and backgrounds can come together and learn from one another," professor Francis explains. "I hope this video starts this conversation and inspires my children, my students and others to follow their artistic passions, no matter their profession."

To create the video, Francis enlisted the help of videographer James Silvestri, who is also a marketing coordinator at Oakland University. Together, they created a shared vision for the song's accompanying video that combines the natural fun and energy of children with a powerful message of inclusion.

When the time to create the video came, they approached Seth Berg, principal of Meadowbrook Elementary to see if he'd be willing to collaborate on the project. Principal Berg, parents, and teachers all participated in helping identify and cast 15 local children to be in the video.

"I was thrilled to be involved," Berg said. "The project exemplifies the core values that our faculty share with our parent community. The music video speaks to many district-wide efforts Rochester Schools are making to enhance cultural competency as they relate to teaching and learning. He also stated that the school district intends to use the video with faculty, students, and families as they explore, deliver, and live the message of belonging and collaboration in a diverse world.

This video was made to impact local schools and organizations, but also to open dialogue about diversity and inclusion and create meaningful conversations.

Teachers are welcome to show the video via the **You Tube** link or contact James Silvestri at 248-370-4833 or via email at jmsilves@oakland.edu to request a DVD copy of the song.



Students from Meadowbrook Elementary participated in the video.

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Try watching this video on www.youtube.com, or enable JavaScript if it is disabled in your browser.

