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E-LEARNING, INNOVATION,
AND TEACHING EXCELLENCE

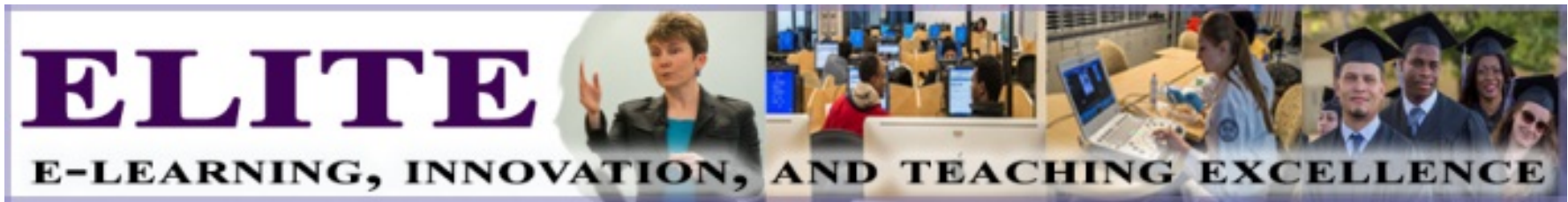
Diversity in the MC Classroom: Leveraging the Value for Learning

Dr. Carol Moore & Dr. Carolien Annink

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Workshop Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- ▶ Articulate their own cultural background
- ▶ Identify key components of culture
- ▶ Implement specific exercises and tools to increase the effectiveness of teaching in a culturally diverse classroom
- ▶ Identify ways to incorporate these new tools, exercises and insights into their own lesson plans

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Our vast diversity: Opportunity and Challenge

- ▶ Over 170 different nations represented by student body
- ▶ Unique in community college populations
- ▶ Cause for celebration and attention
- ▶ What does it mean for our teaching?

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Some experiences....



African American, Thai

I'm ~~special~~ special. My dad is Black, and my mom is Thai. I've lived with my dad since I was 2. I haven't spoken with my mom since then, but nonetheless I am Asian. I don't really know anything about my Thai culture, but I still take pride in it. When I'm asked about my race, I say that I am Black & Thai. I am not one or the other. I am both, and I shouldn't have to choose. ~~I don't have to choose.~~



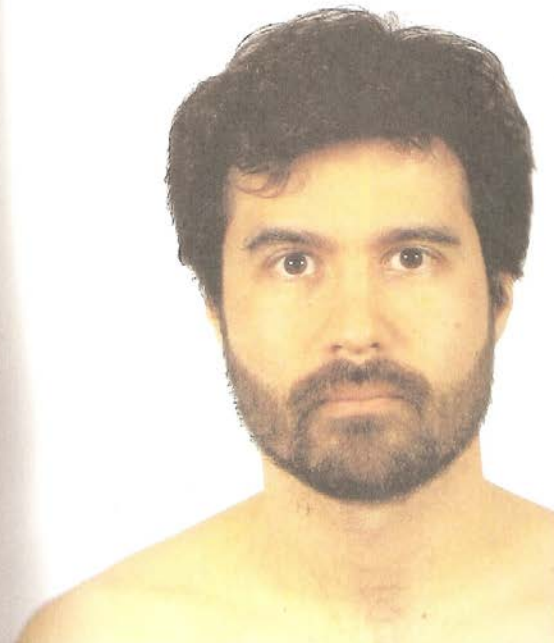
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man, caucasian

1. Mixed race, hapa, hapa haole, Korean, Korean American, Asian, Asian American, Eurasian, half Asian, half white.
2. Vaguely Flattered and vaguely Threatened by your scrutiny. Okay...more Flattered...Unless you get weird on me
3. Apparently more racially ambiguous than ever since growing a beard... and having ambiguous feelings about that.
4. Sleepy.



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• In, Inupiaq, Finnish, Japanese, Swedish, English

I am circumpolar. I am many little bridges joined. My parents + grandparents have many stories of making paths, and following paths, + crossing paths. I come from whalers, trappers, adventurers, nomads — all trails led to a point: me.



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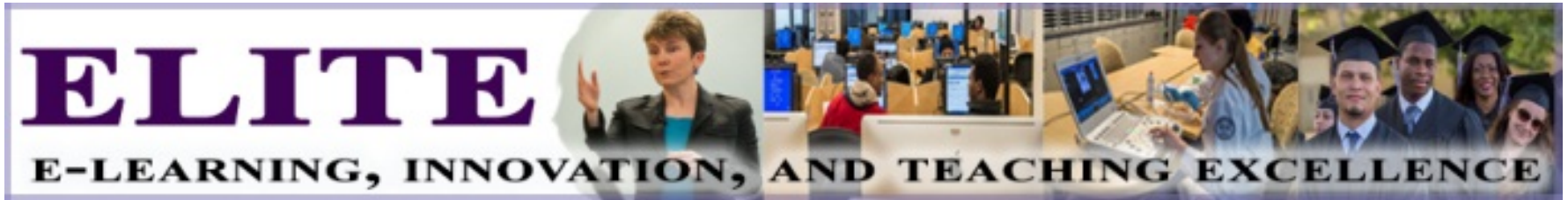


indonesian, african american

*I am the glowing around the moon. I am the
endless summers that you don't forget. I am the
permanent that leaves a mark.....*

I am ME!!



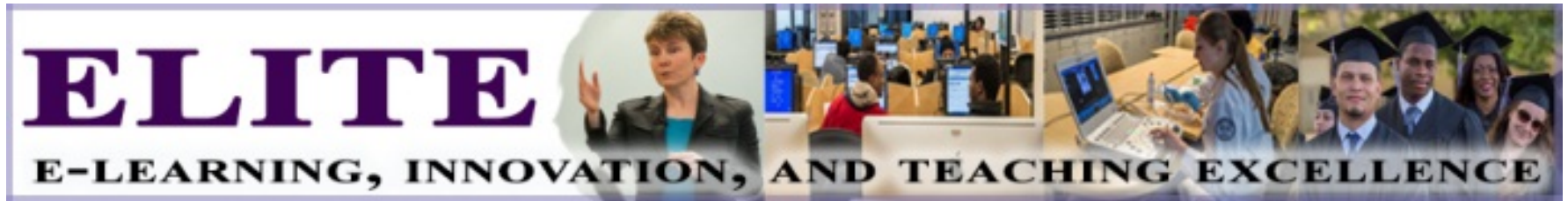


Small Group Exercise

Following the format of these portraits, write your answer to the question:

Who are you ethnically and/or culturally?

- ▶ 5-6 short sentences
- ▶ Each sentence starting with “I am....”



Portraits Debrief

- ▶ Sets the tone for the faculty-student relationship
- ▶ Helps to foster a safe, collaborative learning environment
- ▶ Knowledge creation – our cultural perspective informs what and how we learn
- ▶ Becoming aware of cultural bias helps to develop critical thinking skills (“the West and the rest” perspective)
- ▶ What is culture?

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What is Culture?

The Iceberg Concept of Culture

Like an iceberg, the majority of culture is below the surface.

Surface Culture

Above sea level

Emotional load: relatively low

food ▪ dress ▪ music ▪
visual arts ▪ drama ▪ crafts
dance ▪ literature ▪ language
celebrations ▪ games



Deep Culture

Unspoken Rules

Partially below sea level

Emotional load: very high

Unconscious Rules

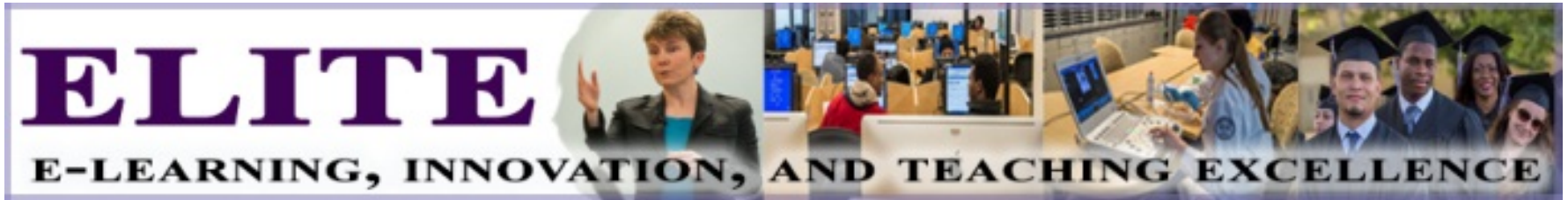
Completely below sea level

Emotional load: intense

courtesy ▪ contextual conversational patterns ▪ concept of time
personal space ▪ rules of conduct ▪ facial expressions
nonverbal communication ▪ body language ▪ touching ▪ eye contact
patterns of handling emotions ▪ notions of modesty ▪ concept of beauty
courtship practices ▪ relationships to animals ▪ notions of leadership
tempo of work ▪ concepts of food ▪ ideals of childrearing
theory of disease ▪ social interaction rate ▪ nature of friendships
tone of voice ▪ attitudes toward elders ▪ concept of cleanliness
notions of adolescence ▪ patterns of group decision-making
definition of insanity ▪ preference for competition or cooperation
tolerance of physical pain ▪ concept of “self” ▪ concept of past and future
definition of obscenity ▪ attitudes toward dependents ▪ problem-solving
roles in relation to age, sex, class, occupation, kinship, and so forth



Indiana Department of Education ▪ Office of English Language Learning & Migrant Education ▪ www.doe.in.gov/englishlanguagelearning



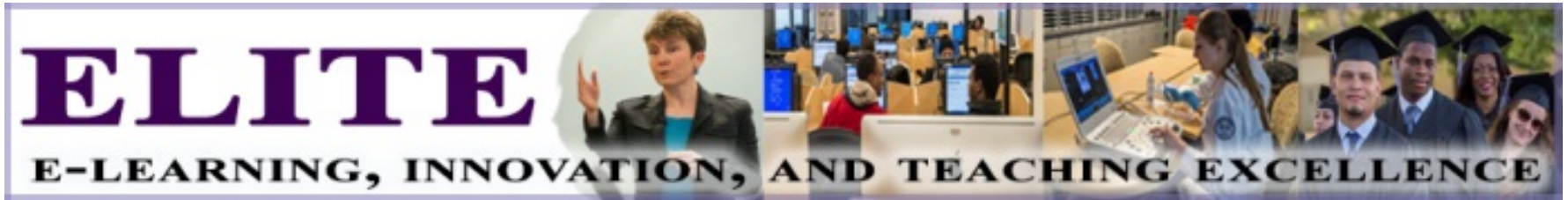
Small Group Exercise

On one side of the card:

- ▶ What resonated with you during this presentation?

On the other side:

- ▶ What can you do in your classroom right now to apply these new tools, exercises and insights?



Contact Information

For information on upcoming workshops offered by ELITE visit:
<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/ELITE>

For further support in leveraging the value of diversity to increase the effectiveness of your teaching, contact:

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