Module 6 – Tribal Wisdom for Life-Enhancing Relationships

Teaching Notes by Grace Ann Rosile & Mary Jane Williams 9/19/2014

Dr. Gregory Cajete and Kaylynn Sullivan TwoTrees discuss the “mutual reciprocal relationships” which humans can learn from observing the natural world, and use as a model to create balance and harmony in human society. TwoTrees discusses her work with corporations seeking to understand their position within the natural world which is not “human-centric,” and where relationships are more important than profits.

General Discussion Questions

Time: 35-50 minutes for the entire module
Materials: Large Post-it Easel pad with pages divided into thirds following the attached model. Classroom set of colored fine point markers. You will need one large note for each group.
Physical Setting: Classroom setting
Group Size: Small groups of 3-5 persons with large group discussions as wrap-up.

Discussion questions for the activity:

1. What is meant by mutual reciprocal relationships?
2. What are some examples of mutual reciprocal relationships in the natural world?
3. What are some examples of mutual reciprocal relationships from the business world?
4. Reflecting on your work or personal experience, how could you apply some of these examples to problems experienced and still be in harmony with nature?

Activity: Creating balance and harmony in human society through the World Café

Part A. - World Café - 10 minutes. This activity is called World Café as the small groups respond to the questions on one large post-it (café table). After they have written their responses, they travel the world (classroom) 2 or 3 more times to visit the comments made by the other groups (at their table) and are encouraged to add comments, questions, etc. The instructor must keep everyone on task.

1. Break into groups of 3-5. Each group will gather around one large Post-it on which 3 questions have been written. The group will have 10 minutes to discuss and answer the 3 questions. In the interest of time, everyone is encouraged to write responses.

Part B. - Travel the World Café – 5-20 minutes (depends on the number of repeats)

1. At the direction of the instructor, each small group will move to the next “café” table. Group members read over the previous group’s response to the questions.
2. Then, they add their own questions and/or comments. The instructor can repeat this step 2 or 3 times (depending on class size and time); so, everyone will have a chance to see what has been written.

Part C. - Share – 20 minutes

1. Groups return to their responses and read over the additional comments.
2. As the instructor reviews the questions, the groups share their suggestions for nurturing relationships.