Follow-up Discussion

Professional Development Monthly Advisor and Planner (PDMAP)

Multicultural Classrooms and Cross-cultural Communication

June 2009

Discussion Questions:

1. What factors influence an individual's culture or cultural beliefs and practices?
2. Describe how the topic of multicultural classrooms and cross-cultural communication relates to your program and your teaching.
    a. Identify the cultures that are represented in your Family Literacy, ESL, ABE or ASE classrooms.
3. Which resources from the PD MAP regarding multicultural classrooms and cross-cultural communication did you read?
4. What challenges do you face related to working with a multicultural group of learners? What cross-cultural communication issues have you experienced and how did you work through these issues?
5. Identify any of your cultural beliefs or practices or approaches to communication to which learners in a multicultural classroom may have some trouble adapting.
6. Think about what you read on the topic of multicultural classrooms and cross-cultural communication. Did any of the resources describe a specific strategy that you could use at your program to help overcome the challenges you encounter? Describe that strategy and tell us how you could implement it at your adult education program.
7. Identify some resources in your community to support learners from various cultures.
    a. If you cannot identify any community resources, what types of resources are needed and what do you think can be done to make the community aware of this need?
8. Of all the ideas that we have discussed today, what is the most important idea you can take with you to your classroom or your program?