

"Infusing and Assessing the Tilford Multicultural Competencies in the Academic Curricula at Kansas State University"

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The purpose of this project is to integrate and infuse multicultural competencies across four courses, Foundations of Education (EDEL 310 and EDSEC 310), Teaching in a Multicultural Society, and Teaching Diverse Learners (EDEL 455 and EDSEC 455, respectively) in the Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education in the College of Education. The goal is to initiate student awareness and understanding of multiple perspectives, which culminates in transformation, and for them to gain a knowledge base in foundations of education, thus extending their growth in multicultural competencies in the multicultural education courses.

Food and Culture: Using the study of foodways to promote multicultural understanding and competencies.

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American cuisine reflects the beauty of diversity. Children glean this as they learn about what we eat and why we eat it, as they learn to communicate what they learn by writing -by telling food stories. Sharing food and stories is sharing commonalities. Food and food stories are what we all have in common. They make us alike. They also make us different in delightful and adventurous ways.

American foodways is the study of what people eat and why they eat it. Foodways involves understanding and appreciating the class, ethnic and racial contributions that make up the menus in this country. Foodways reflect religion, values, gender roles, politics, economics, geography, literature, science, ethnicity and race. Whenever we fry up a batch of chicken, order blackened redfish at a restaurant, indulge in chocolate, share a serving of pad Thai or eat a taco on the run, we prove that the American menu exhibits multicultural diversity.

Food choices are animated by such factors as spiritual beliefs, health, where we live, and who we are ethnically. America's baseline diet has always been Anglo-Saxon. But now, after 400 years as a nation, we now have a growing appreciation for regional and ethnic cuisines.

Food tells stories of families, of power, of history. When students learn these stories, when they share their food memories, talk with grandmother about food rationing and victory gardens, share family recipes with neighbors, make Indian fry bread, eat foods that African slaves introduced to our culinary vocabulary when students do these things they come to understand that food links us in a way nothing else can.

GOAL: to promote multicultural awareness and understanding in KSU students in education, dietetics, hotel and restaurant management and other fields by providing a course (in the Department of Hotel, Restaurant, Institution Management and Dietetics -HRIMD) and learning modules (College of Education) about American foodways -understanding and appreciating the class, ethnic and racial contributions that determine what we eat and why we eat it.

Developing a Relevant Multicultural Curriculum for Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language Professionals

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KSU is Kansas's landgrant university charged with serving Kansas educational and research needs. One group that is often overlooked but increasingly important to our society is adult learners with diverse educational needs. This proposal seeks to serve educators, community members and students who work with basic educational programs. The primary purpose of this proposal is to develop a long overdue educational tool for the areas of multicultural Adult Basic Education Programs (ABE) and English as a Second Language (ESL) Programs for the Midwest and Great Plain States, and specifically for the state of Kansas.

Given the evident lack of refereed literature on issues facing multicultural adult learners in ABE and ESL classrooms in the Midwest - specifically in Kansas - we will develop a special issue of the nationally recognized journal Educational Considerations. This issue will be entirely devoted - for the first time in the history of the Journal- to multicultural issues in ABE and ESL classrooms. This multicultural issue of Educational Considerations will be directly integrated into the Adult Education Curriculum in EDACE 780 (Introduction to Adult Education) for those students interested in ABE and ESL Programs, as well as into EDCEP 111 (University Experience), a class taken by over 900 freshmen a year, and the Pilots Program, the KSU's diverse freshman retention program. This special issue Educational Considerations will be piloted in August 2007 as part of the 12-month leadership/management program with the directors and assistant directors of the 31 Kansas Adult Basic Education Centers. It will also be made available to all the university graduate adult education programs in the United States. These directors and assistant directors will evaluate and edit the articles in this special issue during the pilot phase. Final publication is scheduled for October 2007.