



An eCommunity of Learners: Preparing Teachers for the Future

Belinda Bustos Flores, Ellen Riojas Clark

University of Texas at San Antonio (USA)

ellen.clark@utsa.edu, belinda.flores@utsa.edu

Abstract

An overview of the Academy for Teacher Excellence's development of field-tested online modules, including expert and user evaluative feedback, for the preparation of will be presented and shared.

Within the eCommunity, the preparation of the culturally efficacious teachers [CETs] is approached from a socioconstructivist-transformative lens. We suggest that knowledge is shared, socially constructed and mediated within the social context. As within any cultural and linguistic community, there are knowledge resources that members possess Transformation is a term we are associating with metamorphosis, and in our case is deeply rooted on Freire's [1] philosophical and pedagogical underpinnings, which promotes anti-dialogical thinking and rejects a banking approach to education. Rather than assuming the status quo, we challenge thinking and structures that disempower our ability to make decisions, express our thoughts, and convey our knowledge.

Building on Clark's [2] Metamorphosis Model, to prepare culturally efficacious induction mentors, we envision a journey that begins with:

- (a) Awakening Cultural Consciousness—examining and recognizing unexplored own identities and multiple selves;
- (b) Acquiring Cultural Competence— exploring the sociocultural learning context and acknowledging cultural displays in understanding of others; being able to function within another cultural system;
- (c) Developing Cultural Proficiency— acquiring a deeper understanding of cultural knowledge and others' way of being and beginning to recognize and apply cultural connections in practice;
- (d) Actualizing Cultural Responsivity—enacting in transformative practices and advocating for social justice; promoting empowerment and self-determination
- (e) Realizing Cultural Efficaciousness-- becoming a transformative guide, having agency and assuming responsibility; and assuring that practice impacts outcome.

These five dimensions form the Cultural Efficaciousness Evolution Model, which guide the online modules and serve as the foundation for career teachers to become CETs.