



Learning TC3 Lens

A Focus on
Exemplary Practices

2.3

February 08, 2005

What's right with this picture?

It's easy to relegate the idea of multi-culturalism to the realm of "do-gooderism." We sense that we should be welcoming and tolerant of people who are different from us. But it's more than that. According to the Teaching Diverse Learners site at Brown University, "Culture is central to learning. It plays a role not only in communicating and receiving information, but also in shaping the thinking process of groups and individuals. A pedagogy that acknowledges, responds to, and celebrates fundamental cultures offers full, equitable access to education for students from all cultures."

Visit the Diverse Learners site at www.lab.brown.edu/tal/tl-strategies/crt-principles.shtml#instruction for more information and for pointers to the research on this issue.

How can you use these ideas in your own work?

- Integrate diverse ways of knowing and understanding into your class or activity
- Respect and encourage multicultural viewpoints
- Learn more about the home cultures of others that you meet in your work
- Reflect on the ways that your own cultural identities affect your life and your perspectives
- CELEBRATE, CELEBRATE, CELEBRATE

Got a great learning idea?
Share it with the *Learning Lens* by contacting Amy Trueman at x4244 or Groupwise AMT.

What A Neighborhood!

Campus Community Gathers For Annual Multicultural Banquet

What do a United Nations ambassador, a retired NBA player, a student club president with a learning disability, a college president, and an African RA have in common? They were all recognized at TC3's second annual Multicultural Banquet. People from all over the world, with dramatically different backgrounds, came together for Salsa music and dance, Peruvian arias, belly dancing, Japanese drumming, and inspirational messages about leadership and achieving your dreams. The evening was a unique experience of community building.

Students, faculty, and staff were recognized for their commitment to weaving multiculturalism into the life of TC3 and for all they have done in the past year to make that vision a reality. **Jean D'Arc Campbell**, coordinator of multicultural affairs, organized last year's banquet. This year he recruited students from the many clubs on campus to join



Jean D'Arc Campbell,
Coordinator of Multicultural Affairs

a planning process. In addition to TC3 community members and our keynote speakers, Jean and the planning committee reached out to the broader community, inviting students from Cornell, Ithaca College, and SUNY Cortland to contribute performances of music and dance along with those of our students and faculty.

The atmosphere of appreciation, respect, and pride was palpable. In just two short years the Multicultural Banquet has become a forum where leadership, persistence, and accomplishment are recognized. All who attended were reminded of our capacity to build bridges instead of barriers and to use the unique gifts of every member of our community in the pursuit of excellence.