

Northwest Indian Opportunities Industrialization Center

*Educating * Connecting * Transforming*

What is Culture & Why is Competency Critical?

Culture is often described as the combination of a body of knowledge, a body of belief and a body of behavior. It involves a number of elements, including personal identification, language, thoughts, communications, actions, customs, beliefs, values, and institutions that are often specific to ethnic, racial, religious, geographic, or social groups. For a provider, these elements influence beliefs and belief systems surrounding health, healing, wellness, illness, disease, and delivery of services. The concept of cultural competency has a positive effect on delivery by enabling providers to deliver services that are respectful of and responsive to the beliefs, practices and cultural and linguistic needs of diverse patients. Cultural competency is critical to reducing disparities and improving access to high-quality programming that is respectful of and responsive to the needs of diverse populations. When developed and implemented as a framework, cultural competence enables systems, agencies, and groups of professionals to function effectively to understand the needs of groups accessing services with it is health information and health care , social services or workforce development.

Northwest Indian OIC is pleased to announce Anishinaabe Worldview, a newly accredited training in Cultural Competency. The project to design and offer an Anishinaabe Cultural Competency training is a result of many gatherings of elders, teachers, critical thinkers and traditional Anishinaabe, and the voices of our Members, who share with us, their experiences and their recommendations to make our communities, Native and Non-Native, healthier, safer and enriched places.

We are grateful for the responsibility and privilege to share this information with new learners. Registration fees for this training, as with all our OIC trainings, are used to support the ongoing services of OIC. These services can be found on our website www.nwioic.org .

Anishinaabe Worldview- Cultural Competency

This course will give a general understanding of the Anishinaabe. It will give learners a historical framework from which to understand and articulate the Native experience today. The outcome will be an empowered sense of identity in the Native learner and increased understanding in the Non-Native learner.

Students will:

- Learn the foundations of the Anishinaabe worldview from Creation
- Gain knowledge of colonization and its repercussions on the Anishinaabeg and other indigenous people
- Gain knowledge of the political laws that form the relationship between the U.S. Government and the Anishinaabeg and other indigenous people
- Become familiar with the power and strength of the Anishinaabeg through cultural knowledge, including creation, clan systems, ceremonial life, traditional societal structures , and traditional subsistence seasonal economics
- Develop tools and abilities to articulate and navigate non-Native systems

What participants are saying about NWIOIC Anishinaabe Worldview

"I have a better understanding of Anishinaabe culture with my clients and I am more aware of how to be more helpful with them."

"Training has been a very good experience. The trainer brought things out that really touched the heart - Awesome instructor of this training!"

"I would recommend this training to anyone willing, even a little, to learn and understand what our ancestors went through - I could listen to the trainer all day, every day."

"I would recommend this class - I would love to see it offered to so many other programs. There is no one teaching this. We have to go out and find it ourselves. Everything I learned, I am teaching...."

Participants will receive two Continuing Education Units (CEU) from Northwest Technical College and Bemidji State University, as well as a certificate of completion.

This four-day course is offered monthly at NWIOIC for \$395.00 per person, which includes the cost of all course materials and lunch on site. There is a minimum class size of 6 participants. Classes with less than 6 students may be rescheduled. Course outline is available by request.

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Customized Trainings Option Available

Sponsoring us to lead a training in your community can be an affordable way to meet your needs. Our trainings are customized to your community's specific needs and can be designed for groups of varying sizes. Typically, it takes about 4 weeks to schedule a training. Our responsibilities in setting up a training include working with you to design the best training for your needs, making all travel arrangements and sending a sample handout packet for copying in advance. Sponsoring agency responsibilities include gathering the training participants, arranging for the training site and audiovisual equipment, making hotel reservations for the trainers and making copies of the handouts. Sponsoring agencies may charge participants to recover some of the costs of the training, or partner with other agencies to sponsor the training. The cost for training depends on the size of group, number of trainers and the length of a training, along with travel expenses. Please call or for more information about costs and arrangements. We'd be happy to partner with you in creating positive change in your community!