

NUA Summer Academy 2007 Notes

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What's Culture got to do with it, got to do with it?

Touching the Spirit -- Utilizing Culture in Achievement of Educational Excellence

Principles from Research on the Human Brain

1. Wholes taught before parts are recalled better
2. The brain seeks patterns - - it is designed to perceive and generate patterns
3. Novelty and attention ("The old notion about attention was get it and keep it. Today, you can have students' attention 20 - 40 % of the time and get terrific results. WE know how to get attention: USE CONTRAST. In fact, nearly everything that is novel will garner attention
4. The brain is a social brain
5. We know that the arts can provide enrichment
6. Movement and Learning
7. Emotions and Attention (Emotions drive attention)

Nine Recurring African American Cultural Themes

1. Spirituality
2. Resilience
3. Humanism
4. Communalism
5. Orality and Verbal Expressiveness
6. Realness
7. Personal Style and Uniqueness
8. Emotional Vitality
9. Musicality/Rhythm

African American Cultural Themes

Used within a Context of Nine Supportive Practices

Transformation "Its all good!"
Oneness of Being

Unity of All Things
All things in the universe are of the same essence