

CULTURE, CONNECTION, AND COLLABORATION: THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF GLOBAL EXPOSURE

AN INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION

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ABSTRACT

Real life experience is said to be the best teacher. As adults, many of us can recall lessons that were not taught in school but had the most profound effect on our lives. These lessons, derived from our own unique culture, our connection to others, and our opportunities to collaborate were the lessons that essentially made us human. In the American Education System we continue to insist on brick and mortar classrooms governed by externally mandated standards as the most appropriate way to educate the nation's children. Students not fitting neatly into the box created by traditional classrooms are consequently labeled as dis/abled and thrust into special education. What if we could transform the common educational experience as we know it by making the world our classroom? What if we could honor student differences in a manner that made them feel seen and valued for who they are and the unique culture they bring into the educational space? How would our lives, and the lives of those around us, transform if we were exposed to more than just our immediate reality. This 45-minute session explored the transformative power of global learning experiences for students and teachers through an interactive discussion on the reverence of culture, the power of human connection, and the need for collaboration.

SELECT REFERENCES

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