

# **PROMOTING DIVERSITY THROUGH TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING: MULTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVES ON STUDENT RETENTION AND SUCCESS IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

---

## ***A ROUNDTABLE PRESENTATION***

***Courtney L. Peyketewa, University of Central Oklahoma***

***Bria M. Bowler, University of Central Oklahoma***

## ***ABSTRACT***

Diversity is a term that is often tossed around in higher education, and it is said to be important... Or is it? What is intentionally being done to support issues of diversity and inclusion? As these topics continue to be discussed, presenters will address the importance of promoting equal learning opportunities for under-represented students and discuss strategies of how to best support students for retention and student success. By engaging in open and interactive dialogue, presenters and participants will discuss challenges and risks marginalized students face while attending college, speak on their experiences of working with students, and also share strategies and resources that best promotes student success inside and outside of the classroom. As a way to help facilitate transformative learning for diverse students, the framework of Jack Mezirow's Transformative Learning Theory is referenced to link student experiences to the steps in the transformation process of changing their frame of reference and redefining their view of the world around them (Mezirow, 1997). The purpose of this roundtable is to identify factors that can influence student success, reflect upon interactions with marginalized students and become more aware about how educators can best support their learning and guide them through their transformative process.

## **SELECT REFERENCES**

Mezirow, J. (1997). Transformative learning: Theory to practice. *New Directions for Adult and Continuing Education*, (74), 5-12.

---

For further information, contact the lead presenter:  
Courtney L. Peyketewa  
Graduate Assistant, Native American Success Initiative  
Office of Diversity & Inclusion  
University of Central Oklahoma  
100 N. University Drive, Box 321  
Edmond, OK 73034  
Phone: (405) 669-6799  
Email: cpeyketewa@uco.edu