

EQUITY 102: DEFINITIONS

Who Are You? Fostering Critical Self-Awareness to Engage Across Difference

CULTURE: can be defined as the shared experiences of people, including their languages, values, customs, beliefs, and mores. It also includes world-views, ways of knowing, and ways of communicating. ***Culture is dynamic, fluid, and reciprocal.*** Elements of culture shape who we are, passed down from generation to generation, but is also changed from one generation to the next.

-Adapted from: American Evaluation Association 2012

SOCIAL LOCATION: applies to the social categories of one's identity such as race, class, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, ability, socioeconomic status, and so on. It also applies to social roles and extends to include one's experiences and relationships.

SOCIAL IDENTITIES: are specific identities within these categories of social locations.

PERSPECTIVE-TAKING: refers to the active contemplation of other's experiences by imagining and taking into consideration the feelings and viewpoints of others.

***Socially and Culturally Appropriate Perspective-taking:** centers within critical self-awareness and focuses on understanding the other person's perspective through their frame of reference by considering how their social locations, their social identity/ies, history, experiences and background impact their values, beliefs, norms, expectations, and behaviors.*

