

MOD 2.1 Why Belonging Matters



TAKE IT DEEPER:

Exploring Beliefs About Belonging

Does this quote confirm, challenge, or shift your beliefs about what it means to belong? If so, how? How does your school encourage a sense of belongingness among students and staff?

"The Eurocentric idea of community never approaches the strongest connections in indigenous community that are held together through a core and deep love, which operates as the spirit and atmosphere of community. Indigenous deep love is the stronger spirit that overpowers its rival in the struggle for mastery of troubles in life. It is not similar to the thin concepts of love in Eurocentric thought. When deep love generates deep dialogues among the family and relatives through the generations, community is developed. The shared, communal indigenous love finds expression in the acceptance of nature and community with an affirmation of one's own humanity. In this community, each person is able to recognize his or her own humanity in relations with broad family, community, and other people. Whenever the personal or group conflict between deep love occurs within a community, love throughout the workings of belonging and empathy generates justice. In Indigenous communities, the interrelations of deep love, belonging, and empathy outlasts conflict, and conflict drives people into a deeper, shared involvement with love and justice, until at last they feel deeply responsible for one another's fate." —James [Sa'ke'j] Youngblood Henderson, Chickasaw Nation Native Law Centre of Canada (from the foreword in [Indigenous Community: Rekindling the Teachings of the Seventh Fire](#) by Gregory Cajete, Ph.D.)

"We all belong here equally...Just by being born onto the earth we are accepted and the earth supports us. We don't have to be especially good. We don't have to accomplish anything. We don't even have to be healthy." —Polly Horvath