



Mission of Love



" You are not here to save the world, but are here to touch the hands that are within your reach."

Subject: Please help us, to help others. Pine Ridge Indian Reservation 4-09-10

Subject: The concept of multicultural and intercultural higher education is fueled by the desire to increase the interaction, respect, cooperation and understanding between individuals, institutions

Subject: Please help us to help others

Kathy,

We would like to formally request your assistance and guidance to bring our nursing students to the Pine Ridge reservation this spring. Without your help this trip would be extremely difficult, or very possibly would not occur. We have worked in the past with you and the Mission of Love and loved the opportunities that you provided for the students and faculty. With your help the students were able to participate in packing medical supplies and collecting winter coats for those in need. You are an amazing woman with high standards, compassion, cultural knowledge; as well as much warmth and energy. You are a wonderful example for what one person can accomplish, and I want my students to know you and work with you. We have worked extremely well in the past, and you serve as a mentor for me as I begin to plan national and international community nursing service. I was so touched, as were my students and faculty, with the presentation and information that you shared with us at Kent State University about the Lakota tribe. It is hard to imagine the level of poverty and the shortened life expectancy that exists in this country. We are extremely motivated to help in any way that we can, and I am grateful for the opportunity to work with you.

There are many goals of this experience. In the context of a rapidly changing and complex world, the need to educate students to participate in, and contribute to a global knowledge-based society, while maintaining appreciation and respect for difference, has never been greater. The concept of multicultural and intercultural higher education is fueled by the desire to increase the interaction, respect, cooperation and understanding between individuals, institutions, communities, and nations including this very special nation of Lakota Sioux. The focus of this experience will be to help in any way that is needed for the Lakota Indian tribe at the Pine Ridge Reservation. We will hopefully examine, educational, and health care policies of this community and identify implications for health care interventions.

In addition, this project will also allow me to complete a phenomenological qualitative study on my students following the spring 2010 immersion experience. The focus of the research will be to determine if there is a relationship between cultural immersion experiences and the development of cultural humility for nursing students. Cultural Humility is defined as the ability to acknowledge the limitations of one's cultural perspective and work toward overcoming this perspective in order to provide better care for the individuals that the professional nurse serves. Cultural humility encompasses a deepening awareness of different cultures and the development of insight of assumptions and practices of that culture. Rather than assuming that all members of a certain culture conform to a certain stereotype, a good care provider will understand that, while cultural differences will affect their interaction with individuals, each person remains an individual and should be treated as such. Approaching each encounter with the knowledge that one's own perspective is full of assumptions and prejudices can help one to keep an open mind and remain respectful of the person seeking care. Merely acknowledging the differences between cultures is an important first step toward cultural humility, but it is certainly not sufficient. It is possible to know everything that one could possibly know about a culture, without demonstrating true cultural humility. Hopefully the students will develop a sense of cultural humility after this experience .



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With your help and guidance this hopefully will be the beginning of a long and close association with a mission of love. Your goals and love of people is contagious, and we want to be a part of a mission of love.

Thanks you so much for your time and consideration for Kent State University.

Sincerely and with much respect,

Mary Lou

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