

# Foster Cultural Awareness in the Classroom

## LOOK INWARD

What is your culture? How do you see the world? What factors contribute to the lens through which you view your experiences? Family, gender identity, racial identity, ethnicity, nationality, age, sexual orientation, language, friends, religion, etc.?

## FIND COMMON GROUND

Look for the similarities that you share with your students. Where can you find common ground in your cultures?

## CREATE A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Create a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students. Greet students by name, set clear behavioral expectations, and emphasize collective efforts with peers and classroom community. It is also important to integrate the culture, experiences, and language of diverse learners into your classroom lessons.

## LISTEN AND LEARN

See the cultural differences in your classroom as assets. Look for ways to incorporate these cultures into course content. Avoid preconceived notions and deepen your understanding of your students' unique cultural identities.

## SET HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Assert and express high expectations for all students. Find ways to capitalize on students' strengths and embed them into course content and procedures.

## COMMUNICATE CLEARLY

Develop an awareness of the communication styles in your class. Verbal and nonverbal communication can have a major impact on students. What does your body language or tone say to students? Does your body language say you are interested in knowing them and that you care?