

### **Words to Embrace: Toward I-We Day Collaborative Service Project Duties**

Cooper Thompson writes, "...if I am doing something for someone else's benefit and not my own, I run the very real risk of deciding what they need rather than listening to them articulate their needs. I also run the risk of doing their work for them, thus depriving them of the opportunity to learn new skills to defeat their oppression" (1992, p. 244).

#### **Tarheels should be looking at that quote and getting the following out of it:**

1. By going to groups with your ideas BEFORE you completed the autoethnography and before you've critiqued yourselves, and before you've listened to them talk about their goals, hopes, etc. for themselves, you run the risk of TELLING them what you think they need rather than asking. Who are you to tell an organization what they need when you aren't part of them? Not that you can't give an outsider's perspective, but you shouldn't do so until after you've heard what they want to do as an organization and cultural group.

2. Tarheel cultural group organizations are formed for a reason. Likely that reason is because in some places or times, they've been isolated and sometimes excluded in one form or another. The presence of their organization gives them a means of fighting exclusion and inequity in whatever way(s) they wish to do so. So by going to organizations and telling them your ideas before you've listened to theirs, you're taking away their right to fight against what they perceive as being dominant, exclusive, and/or inequitable. (Remember, you were supposed to be paired with groups with whom you have never worked before).

-----

### **Words to Embrace: Toward I-We Day Intercultural Ice-Breaking Dialogues**

1a. Story of your (or your family's) movement to the U.S.---then movement within the

U.S. (type of jobs they had/have, etc.

1b. How does it feel to tell/share this story?

2. Describe a situation that describes privilege or advantage in your own life & how did you think power operated?

3. Describe a situation of disadvantage or penalty- oppression in your own life & how did you think power operated there?

4. Describe for your group in 1 minute – a utopian dream world (where oppression and inequities no longer exist) and how power operates there? Note: Dr. Greg Tanaka noted that his research/training group began to do Question #4 in their research/ training because without it, too many folks would tend to leave the workshop feeling oppressed/depressed without it.

5a. Now, Tell your group what you might do tomorrow to put that dream world into effect/into place?

5b. How does what you did move away from your current life?