**STEPS Regional Partner meeting**

**Cultural Integration session** – 1:15 – 2:45pm

April 29, 2019

**Objective:**

What is the value of cultural integration?

**Context :**

Cultural integration is one of the wrap around supports for all our partners and work in the cradle to career.  Each of our partners is doing variety of work, and cultural integration is an important part of the work and the way culture is brought in varies.

**Opening exercise**:

Greeting frenzy – ask participants to share, in your role, what is one thing you’re doing to integrate culture into your work?

Post-its handed out – asked group to write questions that come to mind as the group discusses questions or write down questions they still have after session to consider in conversations for future work.

**Fish Bowl**:

Conversation led by Lori. Konrad, Tom McKenna, Mary Folletti, Gloria Wolfe, Ben Young participated, answered questions in center of group.

Fish bowl a questions and conversation:

**Q: What ways are you bringing culture into your work?**

* Considering – How do we help grow the TCLL program?
* School classrooms teach culture as separate thing. Wake up that nest teaching through the language.
* Matching words through context not just rhyme. Tlingit language learning process is different than learning English.
* Teaching kinship through language. Relationship w/people we learn from.
* Gathering food & working w/elders for culture camp.
* Eagle kids ask questions of Eagle relatives and same for Raven kids => get to know who their group is.
* Teaching our kids very dramatically what it is to be Tlingit person.
* Mantra with body movement: “Tlingit haa satee…”
* Aotearoa immersion schools: All teachers required to learn Maori culture. Hakas – can visually see the pride in the kids.
* Unapologetic Maori culture which is open & welcoming to all to join & learn about culture.

**Q: How do all students benefit from cultural integration?**

* By incorporating culture & inclusive to all, helps connect with each other. Helps everyone know why important.
* Because so much trauma we hold culture super tight.
* Creates community pride.
* Having conversations on community level about the value. Human right to learn the language.
* College transition from small village to college – hard, lonely. UAS had space for me/us which helped bridge the gap.

Additional question not asked due to time constraint - What have been some of your biggest successes or trouble-shooting strategies  you’ve used in your immersion classrooms or school?

**Small group Questions - each Fishbowl participant leads small group:**

Discussed the following -

\*1 idea of how you might bring culture into your work in a more meaningful way

\*How can we  deepen and expand cultural work together?

**Lingering questions after hearing fishbowl**, shared via post-it left on Cultural Integration flip chart at end of session:

* How do we make the decision to teach through the culture & the language pK-12+?
* Lateral violence among each other and organizations
* Deepening (productive) (+) Collaborative relationships between organizations
* Where, When do we hold ourselves & organizations accountable for cultural safety & equity?