

SUGGESTED VIEWING

Review written by: Dr. Linda Lytle, Department of Counseling faculty

Building Culturally Responsive Relationships with Diverse Families of Children with Disabilities

Dr. Beth Harry, University of Miami

This DVD is the third in the NAME multicultural video series and features Beth Harry, a nationally known special educator who has worked to focus attention on building positive relationships with parents. In this video, she speaks clearly and eloquently, giving many concrete examples of how educators view parents through a lens that focuses not on strengths, but on deficiencies. She challenges us to truly see and listen to what parents have to say about their children.

This video is appropriate for both counselors and teachers. While the students Beth Harry talks about are not deaf, they have disabilities and are from diverse backgrounds. It is easy to identify with the parents in this video. She focuses on 3 views professionals often hold in working with parents: parents are in denial of their children's needs, parents' low participation in school meetings is because they do not care sufficiently about their children, and the problem of defining children's problems as "cultural."

In this video, Harry challenges us to greater self-awareness that all of us (including white middle-class professionals) have cultural lenses which form our beliefs about the world and others. As Harry says, "All beliefs are cultural." After viewing this video, you should leave with a broader understanding of common terms such as cultural responsiveness, cultural reciprocity, and cultural competence.

Harry speaks slowly and clearly. The video gives a choice of using English captions, which are well done and easy to follow, and the entire DVD is clear and engaging. The School Counseling Program has used this video successfully with their students in the classroom. Cheryl Wu and I also used this DVD in a workshop we provided to counselors from the Clerc Center. The MSSD counselors liked it so much they later used it in a workshop they presented to teachers.

This video is produced and sold through the National Association of Multicultural Education (NAME). (As an aside, if you are not familiar with NAME, it is a fantastic organization and I encourage you to explore their site and to attend conferences). To purchase the DVD, go to <http://nameorg.org/> and click on NAME store and then on Videos. Cost of the DVD is a mere \$20.00 plus shipping.