

Capacity-Building through a Community of Practice Approach

October 2023 NAAEE Conference

Julie Ernst, University of MN Duluth

Claire Underwood, University of Cincinnati





What We Did

- Empathy Context, supported through the *Advancing Conservation through Empathy for Wildlife* Network and funding
- Community of Practice using a Two Worlds Approach

Project Team



Julie Ernst,
Project Design
& Evaluation



Thelma Nayquonabe,
Co-Facilitator



Claire Underwood,
Co-Facilitator



Sarah Wilcox,
Project Administration



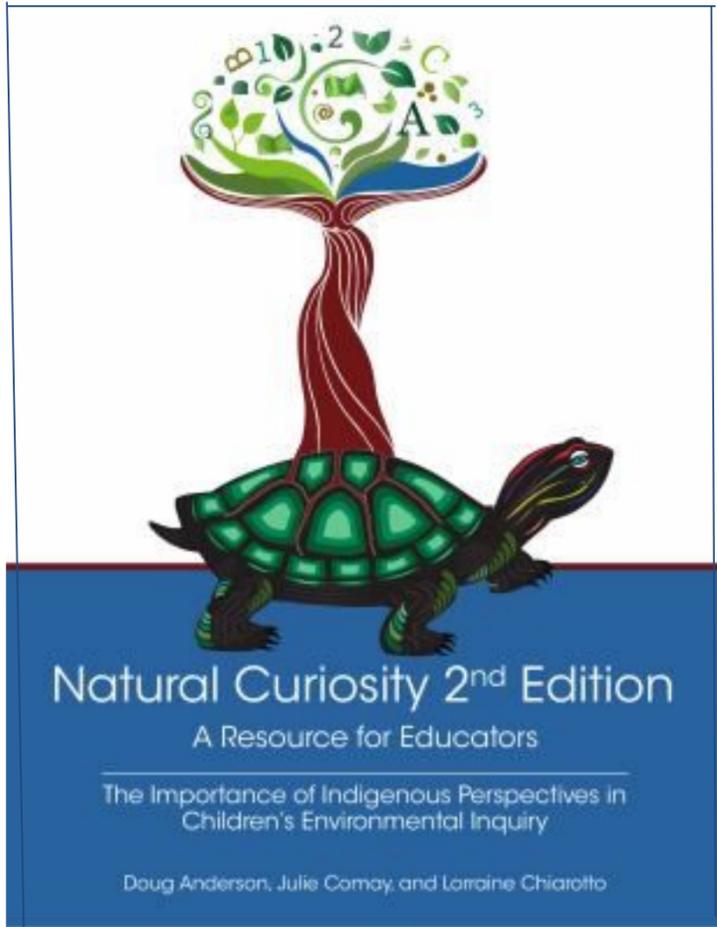
Community of Practice

(Buysse, et al. 2003; Wenger, McDermott & Snyder, 2002)

Two Worlds Approach

(Kapyrka & Dockstator, 2012)







What We Co-Constructed



All Relatives Share Empathy: A Reciprocal Empathy Model



By the Deepening Empathy Community of Practice

Fouzia B. Bhat, Alexis Bruno, Haley Diem, Dr. Julie Ernst, Mikayla Falteisek, Kalina Groothuis, Desiree Hagenbeck, Melanie Michaels, Meghan Morrow, Thelma Nayquonabe, Ahna Neil, Emma Richtman, Moss Schumacher, KrystalLyn Tomlinson, Claire Underwood, Sarah Walker-Davis, Laura Whittaker, Sarah Wilcox, and Mandi Wojciehowski.

Duluth, MN
2023



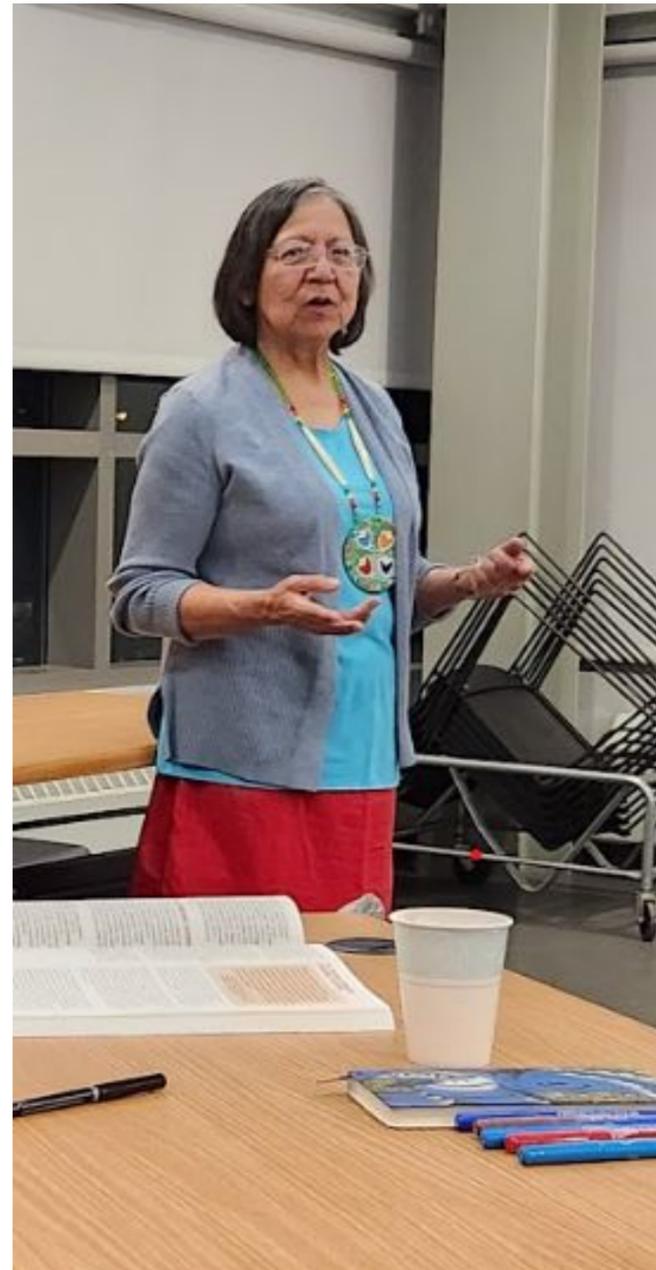
“I really appreciated these multiple touch points once a month because you have all these great moments where you connect. It feels authentic. And you're just rejuvenated. And it's been so nice to come back to this crew once a month, because it keeps adding oxygen to this movement within ourselves, within this group, and within what we're putting into the community. And I have really valued being able to come back to this time and again because we just have so much valuable things to share. We've been learning from each other, we're folding it into our own practices.”

|



“Everything we created in terms of defining empathy, grounding concepts, and strategies was created in collaboration; the ideas belong to all of us together because we all contributed. It was never in doubt that everyone’s perspective was important and part of the bigger picture. We got to know one another through stories and connections to the stories of others, and building meaningful relationships allowed us to learn so much from each other.”

“At first, it was just new to all of us, and we were new to each other. But now I can feel all of your wisdom with me when I'm alone. And it's just the beginning of the journey...being with all of you gives me these hints of what it feels like to build meaning and knowledge together. So now when I am alone, and I'm asking all these questions or wondering what's happening or working with a child that needs something that I'm not sure I can offer, I can feel this like flow of your presence with me. And so realizing really we're so deeply not alone. We have each other, but we also get to be all connected and supported by nature who has always supported us. It’s been such a gift to be together.”



“I can’t tell the whole story,
but I can tell a little bit.”



Miigwech!

Thank you!



Resources & More

