

Title:

Identifying the Cultural Environment of a Classroom

Names, Affiliations, Addresses and E-Mails of Authors:

Dr. Susan C. Brown
Assistant Professor, School of Education
University of Portland
5000 N. Willamette Blvd.
Portland, OR 97203
(503)768-9592
brownsu@up.edu

Dr. Marcella L. Kysilka
Professor, College of Education
University of Central Florida
TR 547 120F
Orlando, FL 32816-1250
(407) 823-2011
kysilka@mail.ucf.edu

Abstract of Presentation and Proposed Study:

The wide variety of students' cultural backgrounds, experiences, knowledge, and beliefs offers every classroom a great richness to be shared. Yet many teachers, either not knowing or perhaps not caring, daily ignore this wealth in their classrooms. Teachers who say that they care about their students too often show in their attitudes and their actions that they care only about certain aspects of their students, not the whole person that makes up the unique individual. Thus, this presentation proposes to help teachers understand their own cultural backgrounds and provide means by which they can help their students better understand their cultural backgrounds. Hopefully, this will lead to collaborative research efforts which can be conducted in a variety of settings across the United States to determine what the "cultural environment" is in our public schools.