Module 2: “Intersectionality” Activity

Purpose of the Activity:

The purpose of the activity is to identify some of the influences that make us the unique individuals that we are. By telling our stories we reveal different aspects of who we are.

Supplies Needed:

- Poster or slide that defines “Intersectionality,” (See PowerPoint Slides, Module 2).
- Complete discussion of “Intersectionality” prior to the activity, (See Curriculum PFD for Module 2).
- Flip chart and marker to record responses.

Directions for Activity:

1) Demonstrate how various cultures and characteristics intersect within you; for example your gender, age, ethnic group or race, and career identities- explaining how your identity with each may have changed in priority over time or situation.
2) Ask: What characteristics did you hear in my story?
3) State: Who we are and how we see ourselves change over time; the characteristics that “intersect” within us are fluid and flexible.
4) State: Take a few minutes to think about yourself and the characteristics that intersect within you. Then think about an individual in the case that you brought; what characteristics intersect within that individual?
5) Ask: What are some characteristics that you identified in the individual? How did thinking about the way characteristics intersect within that individual affect your assessment of him or her? You may try to elicit responses similar to the ones below.
   - It made them seem like a more complete or whole individual, rather than one dimensional.
   - I realized they have many areas of discrimination to deal with.
   - I recognized that he/she has a strong identity with ___; while I have strong identity with _____.
6) Record responses on the flip chart from everyone who wants to share; then summarize what was learned.