



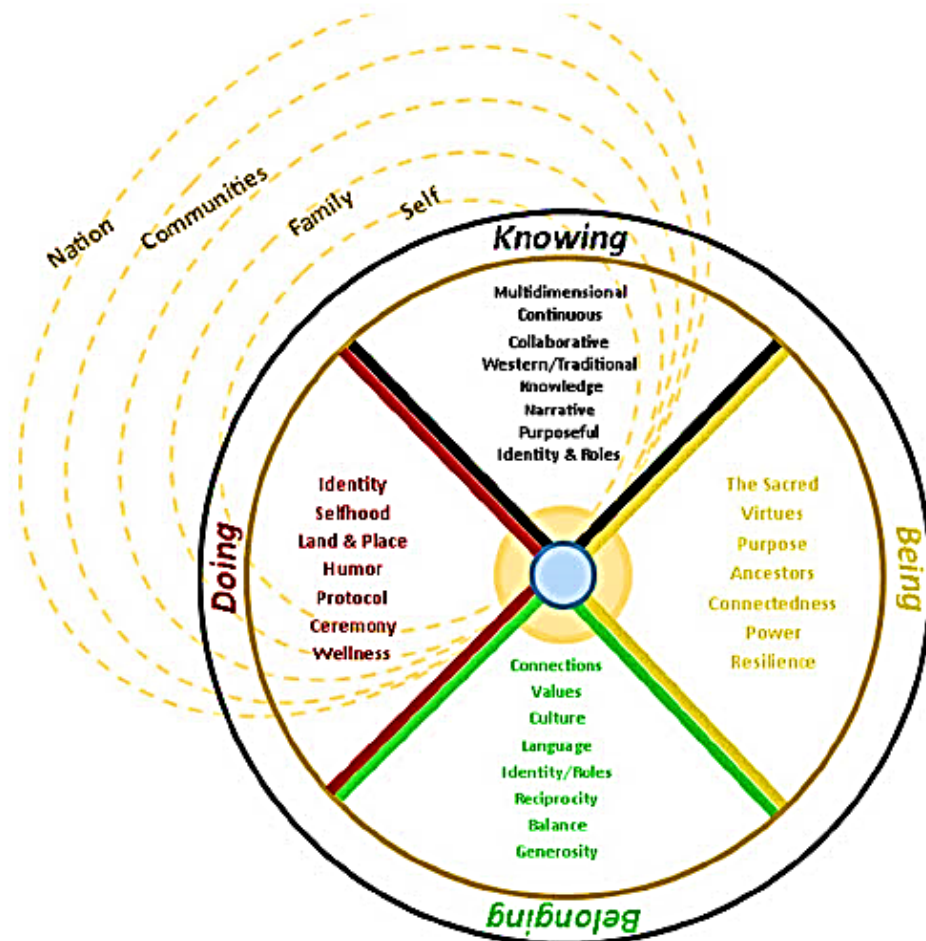
The Indigenous Whole Learner Framework

Tribal Student Achievement and Relations

The purpose for creating this model is to help educators, and those who support educators, understand the relational standpoint of Indigenous youth. Too often our youth are perceived from a standpoint of poverty, or trauma, or other deficit-based, line-of-sight, perspective. Through study of the relational framework, educators might better navigate the cultural imperative of connectivity and identity that propels indigenous, and indeed all, students to achieve authentic learning.

This framework was inspired by work being done across the nation and by indigenous educators past and present. None of these are new ideas and can be easily identified in any indigenous based research with the briefest of internet searches. For the purposes of development, the relational standpoint for this framework may be supposed to run counter to the hierarchal and linear nature of Western education and will operate more from a multi-dimensional perspective. The life domains shared here, along with the aspects listed within the domains, should not replace the development of partnerships with indigenous knowledge keepers in your area.

The hope of this work is to support educators to gain better knowledge of tribal thought processes and world view, gain insight into the importance of relationship in tribal cultures, and to inspire educators to seek understanding of the whole-learner, indigenous approach to education. Further, this framework is not static but a shared understanding with fluidity. It is capable of change and growth. This framework in no way supposes a pan-Indian approach but attempts to acknowledge the unique perspectives of interconnectivity common to indigenous plains tribes, and beyond.





Being
(Spirit)



Belonging
(Heart)



Doing
(Body)



Knowing
(Mind)

- The Sacred
- Virtues
- Purpose
- Ancestors
- Connectedness
- Power
- Resilience

- Connections
- Values
- Culture
- Language
- Identity/Roles
- Reciprocity
- Balance
- Generosity

- Identity
- Selfhood
- Land and Place
- Humor
- Protocol
- Ceremony
- Wellness

- Multidimensional
- Continuous
- Collaborative
- Traditional Knowledge
- Narrative
- Purposeful
- Western/Mainstream
- Identity and Roles
- Contextual