

Celebrate and Document!

October 22, 2003

One of my favorite axioms these days is: *celebrate and document!* We know the magic of adult learning when all of the principles and practices are acknowledged and working. We know the energy that arises and the hope that is born. Many adults have never had that pleasure, and it is our task to *celebrate and document* so that they can take the arduous steps in learning dialogue education.

At Lesley University in Cambridge Massachusetts, Dr. Marianne Reiff and Dr. Marian Darlington-Hope have created a moving short video of the two-day course on dialogue education they led with their peers, other professors at Lesley. These courageous and humble men and women examined their own teaching for strengths and weaknesses and met the challenge of dialogue education to decide upon changes they will implement.

At one point, a pair of professors, in the midst of a learning task, turned to the course leaders to complain that the learning tasks wasn't working. The task invited them to choose one problem they faced in teaching, and select one from a list of axioms of Dialogue Education:

- ☞ Pray for doubt!
- ☞ Don't tell what you can ask, don't ask if you know the answer, tell in dialogue.
- ☞ The whole is more than the sum of its parts.
- ☞ A learning task is a task for the learner

This pair complained that it was impossible to isolate one axiom or one principle and practice since they all worked together. They were both in awe at their realization.

I am in awe of the courage of the leaders at a university like Lesley. May their tribe increase!

Please tell me at jane@janevella.com or at jvella@nc.rr.com what other forms of documentation and celebration you are seeing.