

# WORDS OF WISDOM\*

## ▶ ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

- 🕒 **Time:** 30 minutes
- ➔ **Objectives:** By the end of this session, participants will be able to:
  - Stimulated to think about session topics by building on thoughts and wisdom of others.
- ✂️ **Materials:**
  - Trainer's Guide- Words of Wisdom
  - Quote posters
  - Newsprint
- 🔪 **Preparation:**
  - Prior to the training, post 6-8 quotes around the room. Make sure there are chairs (and tables if possible) near each of the quotes. Note: in choosing quotes, pay attention to who as well as what is said. Look for diversity of speakers as well as of opinions. We have provided sample quotes at the end of this activity. Print those you choose on newsprint with bright colors. Add graphics to heighten visual interest.
  - Write the following instructions on newsprint and hang on an easel which participants can see as they enter the room.

Walk around the room and read the quotes posted on the walls. Find a place to sit near the one which appeals to you most. Introduce yourself to the others in your group and chat with them about what you like about this quote, and how you think it applies to cultural competence.

## Instructions

1. As participants enter, welcome them and provide the above instructions verbally as well.
2. After all or most of the participants have arrived and have placed themselves near a quote, begin the session by introducing yourself and formally welcoming everyone.
3. Invite reporters to share each group's comments about their quote. Make sure the report addresses how the quote relates to cultural competence. If they are stumped, ask the full group for their thoughts, and be prepared to provide your own.

## Summary

- Using words of wisdom can be helpful in many ways: these quotes remind us that some of our struggles today with diversity are not new, and that we are not alone. They also show us that cultural competence is not a separate challenge from many other issues and challenges that face us, some of which we cope with very well. We can use the same skills we use to face other challenges in our lives as we face the challenge of becoming more culturally competent.
- Build on participant comments made throughout this activity as you go over the agenda and plan for the day.
- If participants are not seated how you or they want themselves, you may need to rearrange the room at this point.

\* This module is part of the online toolkit Building Blocks to Peer Success. For more information, visit [http://www.hdwg.org/peer\\_center/training\\_toolkit](http://www.hdwg.org/peer_center/training_toolkit). This module comes from the Lotus Women's Peer Education Training Manual, Center for Health Training and Women Organized to Respond to Life Threatening Diseases (WORLD), 2008.

# WORDS OF WISDOM

## SESSION TRAINER'S GUIDE

### WORDS OF WISDOM

“Every person is, in many respects, like all other people, like some other people, like no other person.”  
C. Kluckhohn and H. A. Murray

“Divide and conquer, in our world, must become define and empower.” Audre Lord

(People) “are never so likely to settle a question rightly as when they discuss it freely.” Thomas Babington Macaulay

“...the kind of multiculturalism that makes sense...is the kind of multiculturalism that...not only informs but transforms: a multiculturalism in which difference does make a difference.” Angela Y. Davis

“Some people think we’re made of flesh and blood and bone. Scientists say we’re made of atoms. But I think we’re made of stories. When we die, that’s what people remember, the stories of our lives and the stories that we told.” Ruth Stratton

“The question is no longer, ‘How do people become Americans?’ but ‘How has America become its people?’” Renee Tajima

“Anyone who isn’t confused here doesn’t really understand what’s going on.” Nigel Wrench

“We are confronted with insurmountable opportunities.” Pogo

“We are by nature a tribal people.” Linda Ellerbee

“A person’s color is the first thing we see and the last thing we talk about.” Sam Chan

“It is better to debate a question without settling it than to settle a question without debating it.”  
Joseph Joubert, French essayist

“The future does not exist; it must be invented and constructed.” Unknown

“...what is needed is to move beyond the ‘one-size-fits-all’ model of management.” David Jamieson and Julie O’Mara

“If you think you’re too small to make a difference, you’ve never been in bed with a mosquito.” Terry Tafoya

“We don’t see things as they are. We see them as we are.” Anais Nin

“Today, loving change, tumult, even chaos is a prerequisite for survival, let alone success.” Tom Peters