

Bureau of Educational Research

2007-2008 Seminar Series

Presents

Can you see what I am saying?

Identity, Empowerment & Transformative Online Learning Environments

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

3PM-4:30PM, RM 242 COE

Denice Ward Hood, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor, College of Education
Northern Arizona University*



This presentation examines ways that graduate students **construct, negotiate, and maintain the boundaries of their racial and ethnic identities** within an online diversity course. From a constructivist perspective, transformative learning involves reflection on at least two levels: (1) the learner and her/his interpretation of their prior learning and (2) personal assumptions. Discussion plays a critical role in creating and sustaining the sense of the class as a *community*.

Online learning provides an excellent opportunity to promote transformative learning, particularly in content areas that pose cognitive and affective challenges such as race, racism power and privilege. Students can be **encouraged to pursue knowledge and empowerment from that knowledge** while simultaneously engaging online. Their view of themselves changes as their sense of efficacy for interacting effectively increases. An underlying assumption is that learning is about engagement and systematic reflection over time on the *progress* of that engagement.