



Dialogue
Relationships
Knowledge
Equity
Reflection
Innovation



Collaborative Learning Circles

Grounded in reciprocal learning-centered relationships, the Collaborative Learning Circles initiative at UNL (hosted by CEHS and INAR) seeks to co-construct solutions to the pressing challenges facing schools, districts, and communities across Nebraska and beyond. By bringing university-based expertise in collaboration with community knowledge to co-construct meaningful solutions, in Collaborative Learning Circles, we strive to break down typical barriers to innovation and creative solution finding for the challenges around equity and justice facing our state and nation today. Our ability to co-construct well designed educational products and learning processes with local communities is grounded in the following commitments:

- **Dialogue.** This initiative commits to co-creating authentic solutions for communities, Tribal lands and school districts through reciprocal learning that does not perpetuate division.
- **Relationships.** This initiative recognizes the perils of compartmentalization and imposed value systems that perpetuate racism, classism and reinforces biases. We are committed to meaningful relationships that disrupt oppressive hierarchies.
- **Knowledge.** This initiative seeks to elevate the local knowledges and expertise of community elders, leaders and learners that work within the local and community ecological systems of learning.
- **Equity.** This initiative seeks to promote equity in roles among learners and teachers in the classroom.
- **Reflection.** This initiative encourages the on-going reflection process for learners and educators to promote high-levels of learning, critical reflection and personal growth.
- **Innovation.** This initiative seeks to co-construct innovative group strategies that afford learners the spaces to overcome challenges via experience and to ensure innovation and forward thinking in problem solution.

To live these commitments, we seek collaborative partners across the education sector and other sectors of the community and industry in Nebraska. As we renew our state after facing multiple disruptions due to the global pandemic, fight for racial justice, and economic uncertainty, the Collaborative Learning Circles seeks to be a place for thoughtful collaborative problem solving and innovative creation toward measurable plans of action. Our collaborative development of educational products and support, through the bridging of expertise and resources between UNL and Nebraska schools, agencies, and communities, is to design collaboratively and meaningfully for a promising future.

To Learn More Contact:

Jessica Mitchell-McCollough jmitchell6@unl.edu Colette Yellow Robe colette.yellowrobe@unl.edu

Kara Viesca kara.viesca@unl.edu