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Welcome to iLEAD: An Introduction to Intercultural Communication for Intensive English Program Students

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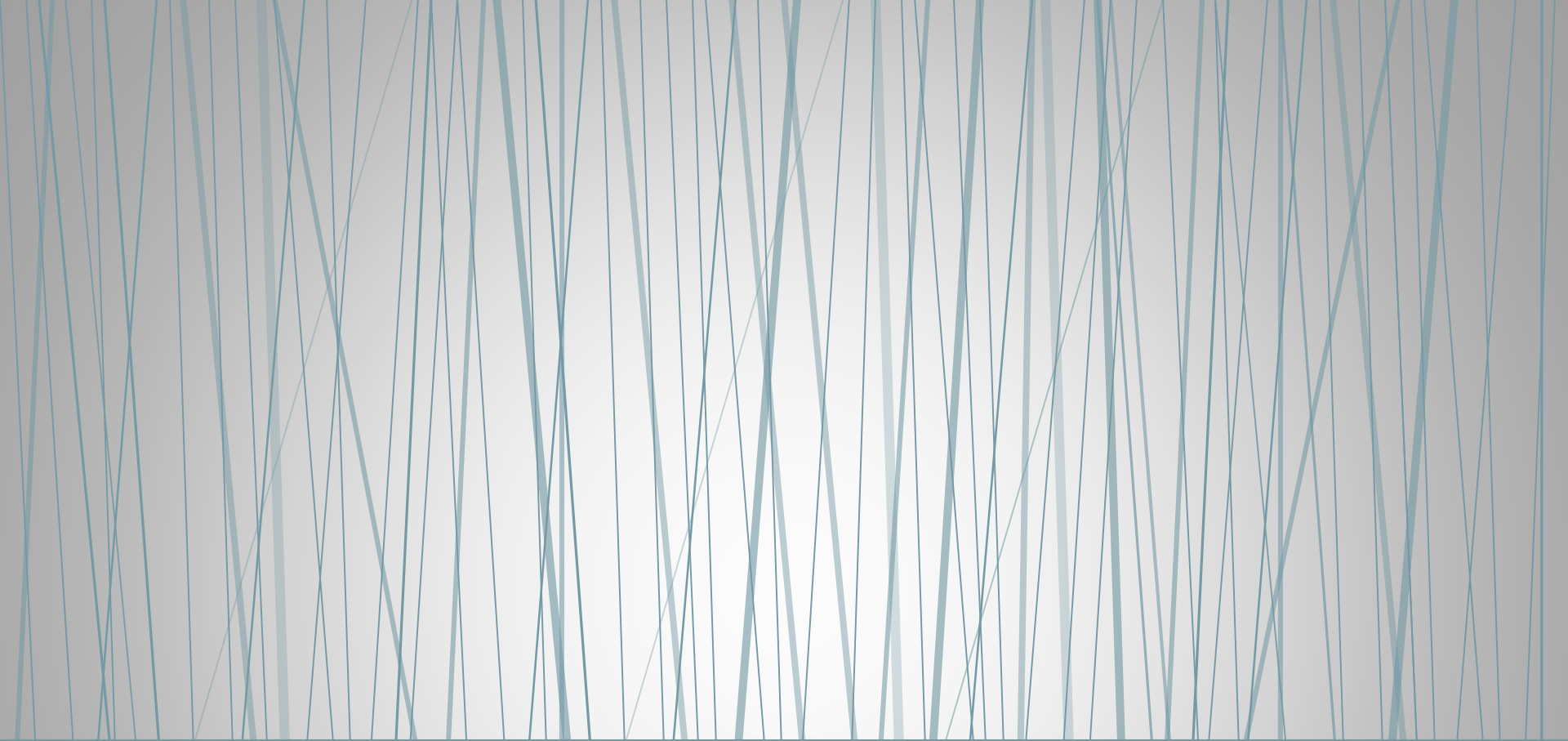
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Welcome to iLEAD!

*An introduction to intercultural
communication for IEP students*

Sharon Tjaden-Glass

- IEP Partnerships Coordinator



What do you already know about intercultural communication?

Pre-test: Question 1

1. True or False: Gaining knowledge about another country or culture will decrease a person's prejudice.

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1. True or **False**: Gaining knowledge about another country or culture will decrease a person's prejudice.

- Explanation: Gaining knowledge *might* help someone decrease their prejudice towards another group of people, but not always. The best way to decrease prejudice is to have **face-to-face contact** with a person from a different group. Through person-to-person contact, difference starts to feel “less different.” It starts feeling familiar. And when people feel familiarity with another group, they are less likely to have prejudice toward that group.

Pre-test: Question 2

2. Is it important to understand your own culture in order to communicate with people from other cultures?

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2. Is it important to understand your own culture in order to communicate with people from other cultures?

Answer: **Yes.** Research in the development of intercultural competence shows that cultural self-awareness is **essential** if a person wants to increase their intercultural competence.

Pre-test: Question 3

3. What do you think is the one personality characteristic that you need to improve your intercultural communication skills?

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3. What do you think is the one personality characteristic that you need to improve your intercultural communication skills?

Answer: **Curiosity**. While other characteristics like “openness” and “respect” and “patience” are important for intercultural communication, all of those characteristics depend on a person having curiosity. Curiosity is acknowledging the limitations of your own understanding and wanting to explore what you don’t know (Bennett, 2015).

The Cultural Iceberg

What we see with our eyes = 25 %

What lies beneath the surface = 75 %



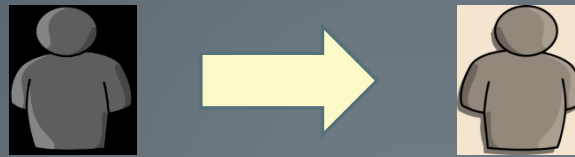
Photo credit: www.interculturalism.blogspot.com

iLEAD means...

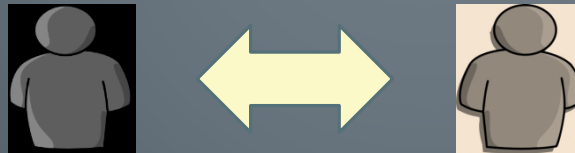
- International Language Exchange and Dialogue
- This is about cultural identity—understanding your cultural identity and learning about the cultural identity of others
- Be aware: Americans might ask you to speak for your whole country or culture, but remember—**you are you.**
- This is an opportunity to figure out who you are and why you are the way that you are.

What do you need from each other?

- What do you need from American students?



- What do American students need from you?





How can you improve your intercultural communicative competence?

Three Factors for Increasing Intercultural Competence (Bennett, 2015)

1. Curiosity

- Exploring what we don't understand

2. Cognitive complexity

- Seeing through many perspectives

3. Empathy

- Understanding and adapting to different cultural styles

What will happen during iLEAD?

More information about iLEAD

- You will participate in activities and discussion about your cultural identity and cross-cultural communication in small groups.
- Most activities will be led by you, the students, in your small groups.
- At the end of each session, there will be about 15 minutes to discuss the session as a whole group.
- Your facilitators will sometimes give you a slip of paper at the end of the session with questions to think about on your own.

Questions?

References

- Bennett, J. (2015). *New horizons in student engagement for intercultural learning*, NAFSA 2015 Convention: Boston, MA.