Book Review

*Intercultural Student Teaching: A Bridge to Global Competence*

Patti Marxsen


Let’s face it. Not only is the one-room schoolhouse a thing of the past, a teacher without a global perspective is the twenty-first century equivalent of a dinosaur strolling through a soon-forgotten forest. In an important new book entitled *Intercultural Student Teaching: A Bridge to Global Competence*, the “global profession” of teaching is described as if it were a new country. Gone are the local charms of cultural unity. Gone is the comfort zone of students who look and think alike. Craig Kissock of the University of Minnesota opens with a blunt but essential question aimed at colleges of education across America: “As an educator of teachers, are you preparing professionals who can effectively educate any child anywhere in the world, now and for the next forty years?”

The pages that follow explain how this zinger of a question might be addressed by sending student teachers abroad, or at least into unfamiliar cultural situations. Thanks to well-written chapters by experienced educators and revealing excerpts from student-teacher journals, this book delivers both inspiration and information. By the end of chapter 1, “The Value of Learning to Teach in Another Culture” by co-editors Sharon Brennan and Kenneth Cushner, one begins to wonder why it has taken so long for this approach to teacher training to take hold.

As they assess the state of opportunities for teachers in training, the authors acknowledge those early creators of field experiences in places as diverse as Kenya, China, Europe, and Central America. Among them, the Consortium for Overseas Student Teaching (COST), has sent over 110 young men and women to the same
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