Title: Spirit and Nature in Everyday Life: Reflections of a "Mestiza" in Higher Education.

Author(s): Chavez, Alicia Fedelina

Source: New Directions for Student Services n95 p69-79 Fall 2001

Publication Year: 2001

ISSN: 01647970

Descriptors: *College Faculty; *Cultural Background; *Higher Education; *Spirituality

Identifiers: *Faculty Attitudes; *Spiritual Development

Abstract: A practitioner and faculty member reflects upon her spiritual journey through higher education, drawing on her life experiences and her ethnic background. Outlines ways to encourage others to explore their own journey and to live authentically, and discusses the challenge of communities of difference within this context.

(Contains 17 references.) (GCP)

Notes: Special Topic: "The Implications of Student Spirituality for Student Affairs Practice." For related articles, see CG 557 657-664.

Language: English

Clearinghouse: Counseling and Student Services (CG557663)

Number of Pages: 11

Publication Type: Journal Article (080)

Persistent link to this record:


Database: ERIC

Title: We Make Spirit By Walking: An Application of Kovel's Spirituality to the Life and Work of Committed Environmentalists.

Author(s): McDonald, Barbara

Publication Year: 2002

Descriptors: *Activism; *Adult Learning; *Conservation (Environment); *Religious Factors; *Spirituality; *Theory Practice Relationship; Beliefs; Definitions; Lifelong Learning; Performance Factors; Philosophy; Spiritual Development; Values; Volunteers; World Views

Identifiers: Atheism; Environmental Action; Environmentalism; God (Concept)

Abstract: An analytical framework based on Joel Kovel's five meditations on spirit (spirit power, spirit being, spirit meaning, spirit and desire, and divine spirit) was used to explore the spirituality of committed environmental activists. A purposeful and snowball sampling method was used to interview 18 individuals with a strong commitment to environmental social action. Of the 18 individuals...
(8 women and 10 men aged 28 to 87 years), 8 were environmental volunteers and 10 were employed in the environmental field. The participants described their spiritual paradigms as follows: monotheist, 4; atheist, 2; pantheist, 10; agnostic, 4; and "would-not-divulge," 1. All the participants were deeply committed to and engaged in environmental activism. Although a few of them believed in a traditional God, none were fundamentalists and none saw their particular belief system as superior or the only true one. Many of them believed that they have received communication or guidance from divine spirit. They all believed that learning plays an important role in their lives and that their environmental work is the making of spirit. This was particularly true for the 16 participants who saw vital power manifested in nature and nonhuman beings. (10 references) (MN)

Notes: Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Adult Education Research Conference (43rd, Raleigh, NC, May 24-26, 2002). Research funded by the Kellogg Foundation through the Cyril O. Houle Scholars Program.

Country of Publication: U.S.; Georgia
Language: English
Clearinghouse: Adult, Career, and Vocational Education (CE084288)
Number of Pages: 7
Publication Type: Viewpoints (120)

Availability: Full Text from ERIC

EDRS Price MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.


Persistent link to this record:

We Make Spirit By Walking: An Application of Kovel's Spirituality to the Life and Work of Committed Environmentalists.</A>

Database: ERIC