Story telling: A career development approach for working with students from diverse backgrounds

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Career development is a profession whose most important tool is storytelling and conversation. However, many students or clients who do not fit into the mainstream can become culturally excluded from a career conversation, career counselling or the guidance process. While career development practitioners are experienced in seeing wonderful things in people’s stories, often it is the practitioner who has taken over. Guiding Circles was developed by Amundson, McCormick and Poehnell (2002) to situate career development within the Indigenous holistic worldview to facilitate storytelling, self-discovery, ownership of findings and growth in self-esteem. This workshop will provide a brief overview of the Guiding Circles approach and provide participants with the opportunity to implement an activity focused on the telling of one’s story, as an alternative approach to career development techniques.

Learning outcomes
1. Understand the value of exploring culturally appropriate career development tools
2. Conduct a Guiding Circles activity, My Favourite Things, as a tool for eliciting a person's strengths, traits and positive characteristics through the telling of their own story

Presenter

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Tessa McCredie is currently the Associate Director, Health & Wellness at the University of Southern Queensland. Tessa has spent the past five years working on the USQ Careers & Employability team, most recently as the Associate Director. Prior to this, Tessa worked in East Arnhem Land on Groote Eylandt, raising aspirations and managing transitions into employment and further education with the Northern Territory Department of Education. A component of her work included finding ways to support Anindiyakwa people to deliver career education to their communities through a Guiding Circles approach.