

R.A.C.E. through Dignity

(Radical Accountability for Creating Equity)



The Dignity Framework

Dignity is the relationship between how you value yourself and how your community values you. A person's sense of dignity is understood through a network of individual, interpersonal, institutional, organizational and societal experiences. Lived experiences either affirm or negate one's sense of dignity. Within experiences, dignity is about a) the recognition of one's identity b) one's ability to obtain merit, respect, access and relationships; and c) the acknowledgement of one's potential to pursue human excellence. Our job as youth workers is to RESPECT, PROTECT and FULFILL a sense of dignity for young people and their families.

Dignity is reciprocal self-worth shared between an individual and society. Every human being should understand themselves to be worthy because the people around them are worthy. Conversely, everyone should be treated with a sense of worthiness because each person sees themselves as worthy.

Elements of Dignity

- Self-determination.
 - To control one's own life and livelihood, to define the world in our one's own words, images, and interests and to decide for oneself and their own communities
- Nobility.
 - To acknowledge everyone, including ourselves, as worthy of the highest honor and respect
- Humanity.
 - To validate inherent value in one another through the shared human experience
- Identity.
 - To see people for who they are, as they are and to recognize and appreciate all aspects of a person's identity including but not limited to race, religion, gender, sexuality, class or ability
- Merit.
 - To earn recognition, status, and all associated benefits for one's skills, talents and efforts
- Access.
 - To have all basic needs met according to the espoused values of the community.
- Relationships.
 - To exist in community with others, free from forced isolation and to protect each person's relationships
- Excellence.
 - To support everyone's pursuit to achieve human excellence

Identity	
Merit	
Access	
Relationships	
Excellence	