

**Journeys to the Center:  
Spiritual Supports for Our Teaching & Learning**

Thursday, March 4, 2010

1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

University of Rhode Island, Feinstein Providence Campus



**To Prepare for the Day:**

\*Note: **“Spirituality” means different things for different people.** Here are some definitions that the organizers of this day use to frame the work. For us, it does not mean an adherence to a specific religion (although we acknowledge that it certainly does for some people). Here are some quotes to consider.

Attending to spirituality “...can simply mean creating an environment and a space where people can bring their whole selves into the learning environment and acknowledge the powerful ways they create meaning through their cultural, symbolic, and spiritual experience, as well as through the cognitive.” – *Elizabeth Tisdell, Exploring Spirituality and Culture in Adult and Higher Education* (p. 42).

“Spirituality in Education begins with the questions: What is my experience? What is my effect? What are the interrelationships between myself and others? Are these being attended to?” – *Steven Glazer, editor, The Heart of Learning: Spirituality in Education*, (p. 12).

“Education is about healing and wholeness. It is about empowerment, liberation, transcendence, about renewing the vitality of life. It is about finding and claiming ourselves and our place in the world.” – *Parker Palmer, “The Grace of Great Things: Reclaiming the Sacred in Knowing, Teaching and Learning” in The Heart of Learning: Spirituality in Education*, (p. 19).

**Please read these articles to set the stage:**

(Download Packet from <http://www.litwomen.org/conferences/2010/spirit-readings.pdf>)

- The Change Agent #19 – article “Loves Herself Regardless” (pp. 40-41) & “Creating Sacred Space” (pp. 42-43) [<http://www.litwomen.org/tca/index.html>]
- “A New Me” by Nadine Lovemore – in *Women’s Perspectives #4: Transition/Transformation* (This article reacts to the Loves Herself Regardless experience from a student perspective.)
- Miller, M. (2006). Educating with Mind, Heart and Spirit. Field Notes Vol. 15 No. 3, pp. 6-7. Also on line: <http://www.sabes.org/resources/publications/fieldnotes/vol15/f153miller.htm>