

## OSEU as Way of Being - Vanessa Iverson

One of our middle school teachers, he just couldn't wrap his brain around why we had to do this and the reasoning behind it. And actually during one of the PDs, we were talking about compassion and perseverance. And what does perseverance mean? Just simply a definition of perseverance. And he could finally understand that it didn't have to be this whole elaborate lesson. It was finally just simply on a math problem, persevering and then talking about it.

It can be as simple as what we are doing and how we are acting and using that as the lesson in the day and how to connect with one of the Oseti Sakowin understandings versus us being, okay, it's Native American time, here's the lesson. And I would say those are the types of successes is the understanding. Going back to that, the specific idea of it doesn't have to be its own individual lesson. It can be more of the understanding side of it. And that's why I relate it to that teacher because he finally got it.

And after he said that and his lightbulb went on, lots of the other teachers' lightbulbs went on. Understanding that it's not just about the lesson, it's about the idea of the culture behind it.