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Foundations in Teaching

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Cultural Diversity Assignment

On a recent field trip experience, I was able to go on an Acjachemen Educator tour. I learned that these native people have a different culture from ours today. The Acjachemen live in Southern California and live in the area around Orange County. They have a rich cultural heritage and were traditionally hunter-gatherers with a deep connection to the land. They used to live in villages and needed natural resources sustainably. During the tour, I got to see what types of animals the Acjachemen people used to hunt. There were rabbits, squirrels, and deer fur skins that I got to look at. I also got to learn that the Acjachemen were impacted by Spanish colonization with the establishment of Mission San Juan Capistrano in the late 18th century. The Acjachemen had disruptions in their traditional way of life, including forced labor and loss of land. With the challenges, the Acjachemen worked to preserve their cultural traditions, language, and their history. They hold cultural events, teach their history, and engage in practices that honor their ancestors. I learned that still to this day they are active in advocating for their rights and maintaining their cultural heritage. The Acjachemen are active in advocating for their rights and recognition. They want to keep their cultural identity and secure land and resources that are theirs. Acjachemen also engages in educational outreach to inform others about their history and culture. I have noticed through learning about the Acjachemen that they show resilience and dedication to preserving their heritage despite the challenges they have faced. Cultural humility and cultural intelligence are essential for teachers working with Acjachemen students or in

Acjachemen communities. As a future teacher, I want to incorporate the Acjachemen tribe into my classroom and talk about their culture, language, and community. It is important that my students are educated in the world around us and the environment that we live in. In my classroom, I want to create a more inclusive and supportive learning environment to learn about the Acjachemen. By having this approach, I can enhance educational outcomes and help foster respect and understanding.

My next experience was touring Mendez Park while learning about the case of Mendez v. Westminster. I learned about how important the Mendez family was and still is today to our world and how the case Mendez v. Westminster has impacted our American education system and society. I learned about the depths of the court case. The court case was in 1947, and it challenged racial segregation in California schools. The case was brought by Gonzalo Mendez in the school district in Orange County, California. Gonzalo fought because Mexican American children were being segregated into separate “Mexican schools,” which were often inferior in quality to schools for white children. The U.S. District Court ruled in favor of Mendez, stating that the segregation of Mexican American students was unconstitutional. This court case helped to end legal segregation in public schools across the United States. As a future teacher, I learned that this case helped me want my future classroom to be more inclusive and have more equitable educational practices. In Chapter Four of “Education for Love and Wisdom” book, I also learned about the Mendez v. Westminster case. As a future teacher, I learned that this court case set a precedent for challenging racial segregation in schools and promoting educational equity. I learned that this case highlighted the importance of providing all students, regardless of their race or ethnicity, with equal access to quality education. As a future teacher, I want to create a more inclusive environment where every student can succeed. I want to foster an

educational setting that supports all student's academic success. It is important that I recognize the importance of early intervention and address any signs of discrimination or segregation. I want my students to feel valued and have the resources to come to me for support. I believe by taking a proactive approach I can help prevent minor issues from becoming major ones or obstacles, fostering a more inclusive and supporting educational setting.