Title of Abstract

Connecting social and natural ecologies through a curriculum of giving for student wellbeing and engagement

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Brief Abstract

The present case study reports on 18 college students, 4 staff, and the author’s trip to a remote island on the Great Barrier Reef. The overall pedagogical intent of the trip was to introduce a curriculum of giving to foster social and environmental connectivity and wellbeing. Because outdoor education trips invite giving in a variety of ways—to the team, local community, natural environment, etc.—the authors wanted to explore and identify an ‘ecology’ of social and environmental concern and offer educators the beginnings of a framework to engage their students in giving and, ultimately, the meaningful life.