# Helping Nursing Students Develop Professional Values, Morals, and Ethics through Reflective Practices

Elizabeth Fiske, PhD, RN, CNE

Appalachian

### Disclosure Statement

Elizabeth Fiske Appalachian State University

The author has no conflicts to disclose for this presentation

No sponsorship or commercial support was given to the author related to this presentation.

# Objectives/Learner Outcomes

Upon completion of the session the participant will be able to:

- Describe how reflective activities can promote affective learning
- Discuss specific activities that can be incorporated in the classroom
- Identify resources for reflective activities

# Affective Learning Outcomes

- Help students:
  - Become thoughtful, reflective practitioners
  - Develop professional values, morals and ethics
- Required by accrediting bodies; expected by professional organizations
- Developing classroom activities can be difficult

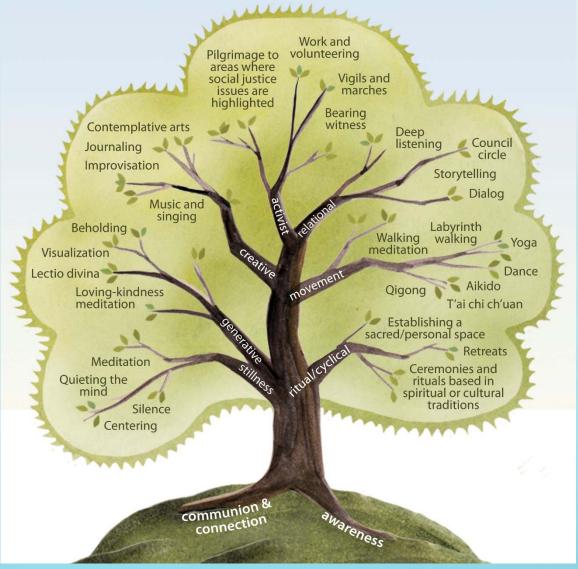


Fred Webb Jr.
Outdoor Geology LaboratoryInteractive Rock Garden, Appalachian
State University

### Reflective Activities

A range of reflective, contemplative activities can be used to:

- Improve concentration, focus and attention
- Develop a positive, compassionate outlook
- Develop empathy and search for meaning
- Promote understanding and valuing of different perspectives
- Create an environment of openness



Association for the Contemplative Mind in Higher Education (ACMHE)
<a href="http://www.contemplativemind.org">http://www.contemplativemind.org</a>

### Meditation



Rich Mountain Meditation Room Plemmons Student Union Appalachian State University

- Calming yet energizing
- Promotes awareness and insight
- Fosters creativity and focus
- May improve well-being
- Creates a quiet, tranquil learning environment

# Compassion Practice

- Aims to
  - Connect with concerns of others
  - -Promote understanding
  - Helps individuals see commonalities



Plemmons Student Union Appalachian State University

# Compassion Practice

- Students work in pairs and silently focus on each other while statements are read aloud
- Statements can include:
  - Thoughts such as the need to feel respected and valued
  - Common feelings such as disappointments and misunderstandings
- Concludes with statements of wishes and hopes
  - Thoughts such as being healthy or having the strength to accomplish a task or goal

### Attending Exhibits

- Student impressions and interpretations of abstract visuals will likely vary.
- Can start the discussion of difficult or controversial topics.



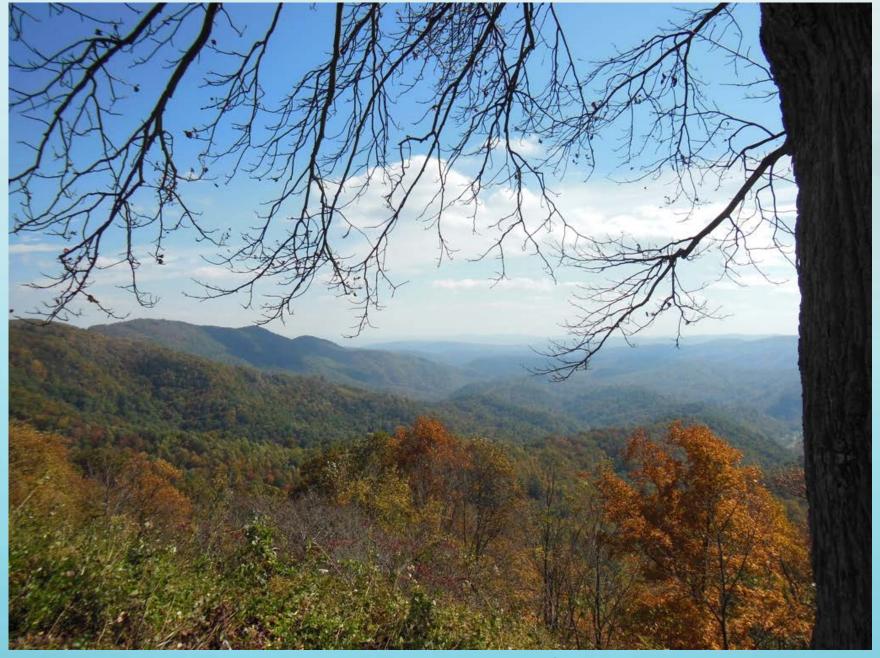
Looking Glass Gallery Plemmons Student Union Appalachian State University

# **Evaluating Activities**

- Evaluation Forms
  - Did you find the activity beneficial?
  - Will you use this activity again in the future?
- Reflective Papers
  - Students were asked:
    - to reflect on the activities in general
    - To reflect on specific questions related to the activities

# Introducing Activities in Class

- Be engaged with practices prior to introducing them in class
- Keep class activities secular
- Allowing students to choose whether or not they want to participate



Blue Ridge Parkway, Boone, NC

#### References

- Barbezat, D. P., & Bush, M. (2014). Contemplative Practices in Higher Education. San Francisco, CA: John Wiley & Sons Inc.
- Burk, D. S. (2014). Mindfulness. New York, NY: Penguin Group.
- Hanson, R. & Mendius, R. (2009). *The practical neuroscience of Buddha's Brain, happiness, wisdom and love.* Oakland, CA: New Harbinger Publications, Inc.
- Howland, L.C. & Bauer-Wu, S. (2015). The mindful nurse. American Nurse Today, 10 (9), 12-13; 43.
- http://www.contemplativemind.org