

Responsive Practices Learning Pathway (2026 Edition)

Supporting Human-Shaped, Culturally Responsive Classrooms

The Responsive Practices Learning Pathway offers teachers, educators, and schools a powerful, structured journey to build culturally responsive, human-shaped learning environments. Through five thoughtfully designed seminars, personal reflection, small-group dialogue, and classroom application, educators are supported in:

- Understanding their own cultural lens through the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI)
- Building relational trust using Touchstones© and Circle of Trust® practices
- Engaging with real classroom stories via the *Being Culturally Responsive* video/discussion series
- Deepening their practice through the *Human-Shaped Learning* book study focused on emotional presence, identity, and belonging
- Applying their learning with individualized coaching and implementation in their own classrooms

This pathway helps educators strengthen empathy, inclusiveness, and instructional relevance, while also fostering school-wide cohesion and growth. It's especially helpful for schools navigating challenges with trust, belonging, or equity, and for teams ready to build stronger relationships with students, families, and one another.

Duration: 4 to 5 Months

Graduate Credit: 6 Hours (optional)

Total Time Commitment: ~91 Hours (approximate)

Structure: 5 Face-to-Face Seminars + Small Group Sessions + IDI + Book Study + Coaching/Implementation

Month-by-Month Sequence

Month 1: Orientation & Relational Grounding

Seminar 1: Launch & Foundations

- Introduction to the Learning Pathway

- Complete the [Intercultural Development Inventory \(IDI\)](#)
- Form small groups for [Being Culturally Responsive](#) video/discussion course
- Introduce and practice [Touchstones©](#) and [Circle of Trust®](#)
- Begin building small groups and meeting schedules

Between Seminar 1 and 2:

- Complete the **Being Culturally Responsive** course (4 small group sessions)
 - Practice **Touchstones©** and **Circle of Trust®** through guided discussion protocols
 - Begin reflection journals connected to video sessions and early IDI insights
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Month 2: Integrating First Learnings

Seminar 2: Processing & Launching New Layers

- Group reflection: *What are we learning about ourselves and others?*
- Debrief from *Being Culturally Responsive* discussions
- Explore shared themes from IDI results (in small or full-group formats)
- Launch [Human-Shaped Learning](#) book study (Ch. 1–12)
- Assign small groups for book discussions

Between Seminar 2 and 3:

- Continue small-group reflections on *Human-Shaped Learning* (Ch. 1–12)
 - Use journaling prompts for personal and classroom insights
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Month 3: Layering Relational Practice

Seminar 3: Building the Bridge

- Process Chapters 1–12 of *Human-Shaped Learning*
- Explore connections between:
 - IDI insights
 - *Being Culturally Responsive* course
 - Circle of Trust® and Touchstones©
- Invite peer-led discussion around culture, emotion, and vulnerability in the classroom

Between Seminar 3 and 4:

- Read and reflect on *Human-Shaped Learning* Chapters 13–25
- Continue book group dialogue and journaling

Month 4: Design & Implementation

Seminar 4: Translating Learning to Practice

- Reflect on Chapters 13–25 of *Human-Shaped Learning*
- Introduction to:
 - [NDNAEU](#)
 - [North Dakota Learning Principles](#)
 - [Teachings of Our Elders](#) video archive
- Begin designing classroom implementation
- Coaching support plan developed

Between Seminar 4 and 5:

- Deliver implementation lesson or strategy
- Receive 1:1 or small-group coaching from facilitator
- Reflective journaling and optional peer sharing

Month 5: Celebration & Forward Vision

Seminar 5: Looking Ahead with Courage

- Share implementation stories and insights
- Complete IDI post-assessment
- Celebrate relational and professional growth
- Identify personal and team forward-leaning goals

Time Commitments by Component

Component	Hours
5 In-Person Seminars	35 hrs
IDI (Pre/Post + Debrief)	3 hrs
Video Course + Touchstones	10 hrs
Human-Shaped Learning Book Study	20 hrs

Implementation + Coaching	18 hrs
Final Reflections/Writing	5 hrs
Total	91 hrs