



## **A Great Sex Educator is.....**

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After teaching sex ed for over 30 years, k-college, including med school, and training sex educators for decades, I would suggest that a great sexuality educator is one who:

- is a good listener; and you must really, really listen, as an elder once told me on a res, don't talk so much, the great spirits have given you two ears and one mouth, you should always listen twice as much as you talk,
- respects her/his students and colleagues; to get respect, you must give respect,
- is sensitive to people/community needs, feelings, values and lifestyles, even when you may not share the same,
- has a sense of humor and can laugh at her/himself, and realizes that sensitive humor can help break down the walls of denial, fear and complacency which prevent effective sex ed,
- is thick-skinned, because when you talk about sex, you are damned if you do and damned if you don't, someone will not like something you have to say,
- is knowledgeable with accurate, relevant, up-to-date information about the physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual aspects of sexuality,
- is aware of and practices what the cutting edge research says about which methods and materials are effective for teaching sex ed, including media literacy, character education, and resiliency,
- uses brain-based learning to maximize learning and make learning exciting,
- has a mindset to be ready to learn something new about sex ed every day from her/his students, colleagues, research, media, etc.,
- teaches that he/she cares since students don't care what you teach, if you don't teach that you care,
- and teaches with passion to ignite the desire of his students and colleagues to pass the torch of learning about sex ed to someone else.