Inquiry Proposal

Integrating Aboriginal education into Tech Ed

I am interested in pursuing the integration of Aboriginal education into secondary school curriculum. More specifically into technology education, however as I have a minor in history I would like to look into different means of teaching aboriginal culture within social studies as well. The question that I want to focus on is what would be appropriate for myself to teach the students about aboriginal education and what should I bring in an elder or band member to teach. I believe that Aboriginal education in our schools is sadly lacking. With a little effort I believe we can bring a more comprehensive understanding of Aboriginal culture into the schools. The main audience for this inquiry are the students. There is very little knowledge about the different aboriginal cultures within BC let alone the culture spread across Canada and I would like to see an integration of local aboriginal bands culture into each subject in BC schools, and I want to see how it will work within Technology Education. One of the key concepts I would like to focus on is how to integrate hands on projects dealing with aboriginal education. I have seen carving done in schools but I would like to expand this into project-based learning. For example if the students are carving I want to teach the students not only about the skill of carving but about the local bands art work and understand the significance of what they are carving. The next key concept I would like to focus on is having the students learn about other areas of local bands culture, not only the carving or crafting aspect. For example if I could have a whole unit on different local cultures and how they live and what is important about their cultures and create a project surrounding it. However with this come certain ethical problems. I do not want to offend or misrepresent the different cultures I want to teach about. This is why I would like to approach the Aboriginal leaders in the area and see if I could bring in guest speakers to teach the students

about the culture and to work with them on projects. I also do not want to bring special attention to any aboriginal students in the class who may not want to have the spotlight put on them. I have been looking into the school policies that deal with aboriginal education and have found nothing that deals with integrating Aboriginal culture into Technology Education. For other resources I am looking at the BC Ed website and different learning modules that deal with other subjects to see how they talk about integrating Tech Ed.

https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/planguide/guide.pdf

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