**Basic Cross-Cultural Questions Tips**

**By Pauline Fong**

**Good Questions to Ask:**

* Get-to-know you questions (How long have you lived in the Northwest? How long have you been at XXX? Where is home for you?)
* What is your ethnic background? (including white people – everyone has ethnic roots in the US)
* What’s your family’s cultural background?
* Tell me about your ethnic heritage.
* Could you tell me more? I’d like to understand more what that was like for you?
* Can you help me understand about \_\_\_\_?
* That is unfamiliar to me. Could you explain a little more so that I can learn? Or is there a book or article I can read to learn more?
* That seems upsetting for you/This may be uncomfortable to talk about, would you be up for talking about it sometime?
* I have something uncomfortable to bring up with you…

**Poor Words to Use (What NOT to ask/say):**

* Where are you from?
* Where are you REALLY from?
* What are you?
* Why do you do that?
* Why do your people or \_\_\_ people do that?
* That food/experience/event/item was gross/weird/inefficient/chaotic. Why is it like that?
* You are just overreacting. Why is that a big deal?
* I have a \_\_\_\_\_ friend. I visited \_\_\_\_\_ once.
* I know how that feels/what that is like.
* Avoid derogatory ethnic slurs/triggers (internet)