Reflection on the Theory of Multiple Intelligences and on Learning
Delivered to Faculty Chairs/Faculty Directors, Friday, September 12, 2014

The Theory of Multiple Intelligences introduces us to various ways we come to understand the world around us . . . the ways we learn. While both fans and critics of the theory exist, the work offers a look at learning from perspectives that touch each one of the disciplines represented at Bakersfield College.

Dr. Howard Gardner developed his Theory of Multiple Intelligences while a professor of Education at Harvard University. His work in psychology, human cognition and human potential served as the catalyst of his work. Dr. Gardner (p. xxiv, 2004) synthesized his theory thusly:

> An intelligence is the ability to solve problems, or to create products, that are valued within one or more cultural settings. If we are to encompass adequately the realm of human cognition, it is necessary to include a far wider and more universal set of competencies than we have ordinarily considered.

The following seven intelligences are competencies that relate to a person's capabilities and the way individuals prefer to learn or understand experiences and information:

1. **Verbal-linguistic intelligence** (well-developed verbal skills and sensitivity to the sounds, meanings and rhythms of words)

2. **Logical-mathematical intelligence** (ability to think conceptually and abstractly, and capacity to discern logical and numerical patterns)

3. **Spatial-visual intelligence** (capacity to think in images and pictures, to visualize accurately and abstractly)

4. **Bodily-kinesthetic intelligence** (ability to control one's body movements and to handle objects skillfully)

5. **Musical intelligences** (ability to produce and appreciate rhythm, pitch and timber)

6. **Interpersonal intelligence** (capacity to detect and respond appropriately to the moods, motivations and desires of others)

7. **Intrapersonal** (capacity to be self-aware and in tune with inner feelings, values, beliefs and thinking processes)

References

Gardner, H. (2004). *Frames of mind: The theory of multiple intelligences*. New York, NY: Basic Books.