Today I Saw You...  
Activities to Establish Community

OBJECTIVES  
• To support instructors in acknowledging participants’ positive choices  
• To create an asset-based environment

SETUP  
• Write each participant’s name on one index card  
• Throughout your session, observe participants and make notes on each person’s card listing the positive choices they made that day.

INSTRUCTIONS  
1. Ask participants, “What does ‘asset based’ mean?”  
2. Explain to the group that asset based means first looking for the positive in any situation. In an asset-based climate, we would hope to hear more positive comments than negative comments.  
3. Ask participants, “What might be the impact on a person if they are in an asset-based classroom/environment versus a negative classroom/environment?”  
4. Explain to participants that creating an asset-based environment can have a big impact on one’s sense of confidence, self-esteem, and resilience. It can motivate people to make choices based on group values rather than on their personal comforts.  
5. Ask each participant to draw a random participant’s name from the Popsicle stick jar.  
6. Explain that each participant should observe the person they chose and look for their positive choices in order to share their observations at the end of the session.

DEBRIEF  
• How did it feel to be acknowledged for your positive choices?  
• What shifts when we try to see the positive things in one another?  
• What skills do we need to have asset-based eyes that can observe positives rather than negatives?  
• Sometimes it is easier to see the negative qualities in each other. Why do you think this is so?

7. Now, run an experiential activity for your group. As your group engages in the activity, flip through your index cards and make notes on the positive choices participants are making. Throughout the session, look for opportunities to validate the participants’ positive choices by quietly telling them what you have observed.  
8. At the end of the session, ask participants to form a circle. Ask each person to share what they observed in the person whose name they selected from the Popsicle stick jar.