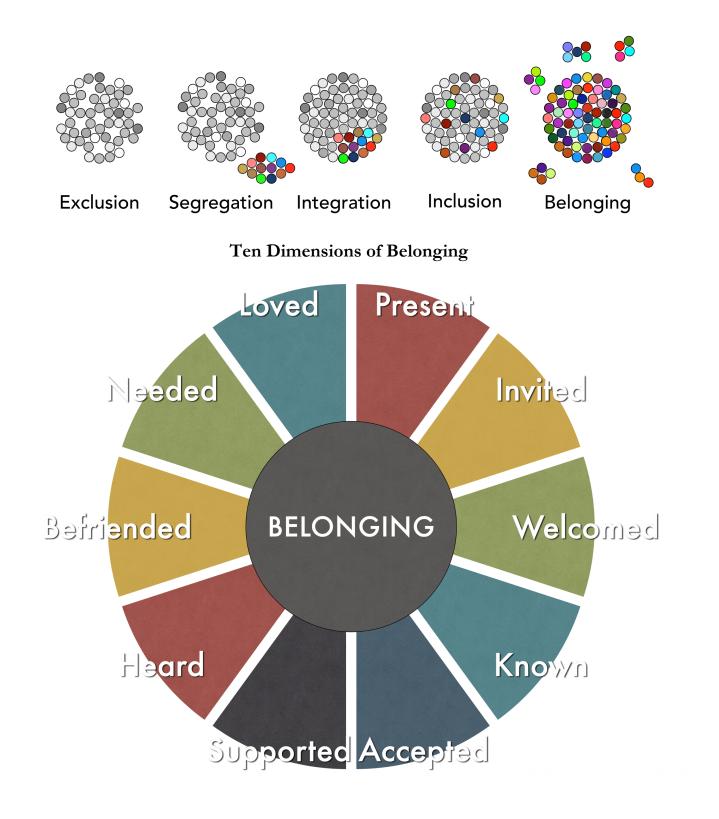
Beyond Inclusion: Creating Communities of Belonging for Individuals with Disabilities Erik Carter | Vanderbilt University erik.carter@vanderbilt.edu



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## **Reflecting on Belonging**

|  | incering on Delo  | 0 0           |                     |
|--|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|
|  | W/lest surg 1     | What could be |                     |
|  | What are we doing | doing         | What should we be   |
| A no individual                        | really well right | better or     | doing next to spur  |
| Are individuals with disabilities      | now?              | differently?  | change?             |
| Present                                |                   |               |                     |
| Are individuals involved in school     |                   |               |                     |
| and community experiences or           |                   |               |                     |
| groups that are important to them?     |                   |               |                     |
| Invited                                |                   |               |                     |
| Is their presence actively invited and |                   |               |                     |
| sought out by the community?           |                   |               |                     |
| Welcomed                               |                   |               |                     |
| Are they experiencing a warm—even      |                   |               |                     |
| extravagant—welcome whenever           |                   |               |                     |
| they arrive?                           |                   |               |                     |
| Known                                  |                   |               |                     |
| Are they known personally and for      |                   |               |                     |
| the strengths and gifts they possess?  |                   |               |                     |
| Accepted                               |                   |               |                     |
| Are they received unconditionally and  |                   |               |                     |
| graciously, and with an attitude of    |                   |               |                     |
| acceptance?                            |                   |               |                     |
| Supported                              |                   |               |                     |
| Are they receiving the assistance they |                   |               |                     |
| need to participate fully and          |                   |               |                     |
| meaningfully?                          |                   |               |                     |
| Heard                                  |                   |               |                     |
| Are their preferences and              |                   |               |                     |
| perspectives being sought out on       |                   |               |                     |
| issues that matter?                    |                   |               |                     |
| Befriended                             |                   |               |                     |
| Are they developing and enjoying       |                   |               |                     |
| friendship in this community?          |                   |               |                     |
| Needed                                 |                   |               |                     |
| Are their talents, gifts, and          |                   |               |                     |
| contributions being recognized and     |                   |               |                     |
| drawn upon?                            |                   |               |                     |
| Loved                                  |                   |               |                     |
| Are they experiencing the deep and     |                   |               |                     |
| unconditional love of others?          |                   |               |                     |
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