Diversity Committee 3rd Annual
Festive Potluck Luncheon

Connecting Across Cultures
Instructions:

Move around and find the person who has a card with a similar proverb. For each set of partners, one person should have a proverb from the United States and the other person should have a proverb from another country. Each set of partners should briefly discuss what they think the proverbs mean. Partners should exchange names once they have found each other.
Proverbs are succinct maxims that express commonly held ideas and beliefs and/or sayings that put complex thoughts into simple and powerful words. Proverbs often express great wisdom about the need for humans to get along. They are part of every spoken language and folk literature, originating in oral tradition. Often a proverb is found with variations in many different parts of the world.
He makes a wine cellar from one raisin. (Lebanon)

He makes a mountain out of a mole-hill. (United States)
Even a tiger will appear if you talk about him. (Korea)

Speak of the devil and he will appear. (United States)
God is a good worker, but he loves to be helped. (Spain)

God helps those who help themselves. (United States)
You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink. (United States)

You can force a man to shut his eyes, but you can’t make him sleep. (Denmark)
One bird in the hand is better than two in the bush. 
(United States)

A little in your own pocket is better than much in another’s purse. (Spain)
What goes up, must come down.
(United States)

If you climb up a tree, you must climb down that same tree.
(Ghana)
From the rain into the gutter.  
(Germany)

From the frying pan into the fire.  
(United States)
My house burned down, but it was a relief the bedbugs died. (Korea)

Every cloud has a silver lining. (United States)
He who is not in sight is not in the Heart. (Tanzania)

Out of sight out of mind.
(United States)
Too many cooks spoil the soup.
(United States)

Two captains sink the ship.
(Japan)
Practice makes perfect (or, if at first you don’t succeed, try, try again). (United States)

By trying often, the monkey learns to jump from the tree. (Zaire)
The early bird gets the worm. (United States)

A person that arrives early to the spring never gets dirty drinking the water. (Zaire)
I will not cry over a mishap and injure my eyes. (Tanzania)

It is no use to cry over spilled milk. (United States)
Trust in God but tie your camel. (Iran)

God helps those who help themselves. (United States)
A sparrow in the hand is better than a cock on the roof. (Russia)

One bird in a hand is better than two in the bush. (United States)
A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. (United States)

Where something is thin, that’s where it tears. (Russia)
Don’t judge a book by its cover.
(United States)

Not everyone who has a cowl on is a monk. (Russia)
As you sow, so shall you reap. (United States)

As you cooked the porridge, so must you eat it. (Russia)
Every seed knows its time. (Russia)

All in good time. (United States)
How can one retrieve the baby tiger without going into the tiger's den? (China)

No pain no gain. (United States)
Don't say "fava bean" until it reaches your plate. (Lebanon)

Don’t count your chickens before they hatch. (United States)
Think before you speak.
(United States)

Give your tongue more holidays than your head. (Scotland)
Look before you leap
(United States)

Second thoughts are best. (Italy)
Penny wise and pound foolish. (United States)

To cut the roots but pamper the leaves. (Portugal)
Other peoples eggs have two yolks. (Hungary)

The grass is always greener on the other side. (United States)
PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER
CONNECTING ACROSS CULTURES

In many ways, people from different backgrounds and cultures hold similar values and beliefs. We may have different ways of talking and different behavior patterns, but many of our most basic needs and interests are Similar.
Proverbs often sum up powerfully the idea that all humans are one.
THANK YOU!
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