Week 8 Facilitation: Alex Richardson and Tracey Bell: National Initiatives/Special Populations

**Topic**: Our focus in this workshop is how the population of U.S. military veterans is being served with the arts in a healthcare setting, and the intersection between these arts programs and those being used with other populations dealing with similar issues related to brain trauma, memory, aging and trauma.

**Description**: Following the model used in the NICoE (National Intrepid Center of Excellence) Healing Arts Program--specifically, Expressive Writing, we will use writing and discussion to explore this topic. Workshop will include creative writing readings, a writing exercise, and small group discussion.

**Big Questions**:

As arts administrators, how do you develop programming for a unique population that validates their experience? How do you identify, meet and evaluate their needs, and without creating a dialogue of otherness?

What are the desired outcomes from an arts and healing program dealing with special populations? How do these outcomes differ from the expectations of arts education programming and evaluation?

How these initiatives relate to model of 21st Century skills development employed in youth arts education?  Is there an intersection of soft-skill development and socialization?    

**Learning Objectives:**

Cultivate awareness of different approaches to developing arts programming for “special” populations.

Understand differences in outcome goals between arts in healthcare intervention participants, veteran populations, and arts education students (whether adult of k-12) at large.

Internalize the effectiveness and power of expressive writing for veterans specifically, and in general.

**Content Areas:** Arts and Healthcare National Initiatives/Special Populations. Populations explored: veterans, seniors, sufferers of traumatic brain injuries and cognitive issues. Specific arts programs and their outcome goals. Relationship to 21st century skills.

**Structure:** After we introduce the topic, we will read selected veteran-authored creative writing pieces. Then, participants will be given the chance to read creative writing pieces. Next, we will lead a brief writing exercise, and conclude with a discussion.