 **RE-DISCOVERING AMERICA**

**Understanding Colonization**

A supplemental program for grades 6-12

Through this program, in one class period, students symbolically experience the colonization of North America as the Native peoples and the European colonists experienced it.

During a 25-minute participatory exercise, students hear the voices of Indigenous leaders and European popes, monarchs, presidents, generals, and Western historians as the story unfolds. They learn about the Doctrine of Christian Discovery and how it was employed to take lands away from non-Christian peoples. They learn how this Doctrine continues to violate the rights of Indigenous peoples in our country and around the world. And they learn how Indigenous peoples organized to claim their rights through passage of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The exercise is followed by a 20-minute response period, when students share what they learned, how they feel, and what they think about the reality of Native peoples in our society today.

This program is a valuable hands-on supplement to lessons in history, civics, diversity and inclusion, racism, social justice movements, current events, and to commemorate Indigenous Peoples Day/Columbus Day (Oct. 12), United Nations Day (Oct. 24), and Human Rights Day (Dec. 10).

*“The script is GREAT! The activity was such a success. The students were excited about the interactive component. They really enjoyed the opportunity to participate. Please let me know what else I can do to help you further your work.”*

– Middle School Teacher, Boulder CO

*“I really enjoyed the workshop and was inspired by the work you are leading. I think your simulation and readings (with such great primary sources) was excellent.”*

– Middle School Teacher, Louisville CO

*“You did an absolutely amazing job!  The kids had some very insightful and valuable things to say.”*

– Program Administrator, Reading to End Racism, YWCA of Boulder Valley

*“The lesson today was really powerful and moving. I learned a lot and this has inspired me to dig deeper and take actions to help end prejudice and racism.”*

– Middle school student, Boulder CO

For information and to request a presentation of “Re-Discovering America,” contact Paula Palmer, [paulaRpalmer@gmail.com](mailto:paulaRpalmer@gmail.com) , or Jerilyn DeCoteau, decoteau\_jerilyn@hotmail.com, and visit www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship