The Institute for Embodied Learning uses the merits of the Enneagram system to encourage students to know themselves a bit more complexly. It facilitates investigation into how who they are, in all their depth, mystery and subjectivity, is present in the world of the classroom. In recognizing how who they are is present and manifest in the classroom, new relationships can be forged between each student and the information, both student and content can be made into “subjects,” and thus relationships between subjects are enabled. The alternative is objectivism, which begets distancing and the relegation of everything to information that may or may not be integrated into the lives of the learners.

In a classroom setting you are working mainly on an individual level you are trying really hard to understand the concepts for you. It doesn’t really matter what other people are learning whereas with the Institute you are sitting in a room full of people who do things very differently and respond to things very differently. In order to really enjoy the program to the fullest, I think it is really important to delve into the differences that exist between you and someone else and why those differences exist. It is just as much or more centered as it is you centered. —Adam Lomas

Originally I didn’t really have a purpose for my major, it was just something that I was interested in studying, but now I guess I have more of a purpose behind studying medical anthropology, other than just to like it more than bio. I am not just studying to study it; I realized how much I care about these issues that I am studying, how much I want to advocate for them. The exercises in this class have opened my eyes a little bit to not just what I want to do, but why I want to do it, which I didn’t really think about before. I always knew I wanted to be a doctor but why am I driven to do that and why am I driven to be a medical anthropology major? So I am really appreciating my major and because I understand why I like studying medical anthropology. —Morgan Ostertag

I thought that it wasn’t going to impact in my life; I thought it was just going to be something I did on Tuesday nights and that’s it. But since I’ve been part of the institute, it’s turned into a very beautiful journey into self-realization. I didn’t expect that I was going to find out so many things about myself and face myself in such a raw way. —Nico Sandi

I mean it’s stressful. Self-awareness is stressful, maybe not for everybody, but for me it is. It places a lot of pressure on me because now I feel like now that I understand myself I’m really out of excuses for acting in unhealthy ways. It really takes the old cliché, ignorance is bliss and says, oh well too bad because we are about to get rid of your ignorance so you have nothing to hide behind. —Westin Miller

Embodiment in education heightens the capacity to change and be changed as we encounter information in multiple relationships to the community of the classroom.