

Leading Change: Resilience is the Secret to Improvement

A Beginning Exercise "Clearing the Space"

How often have you looked like this:

































Surviving

Scenario: Consider this...

It's 7:45am, your alarm didn't go off and you are rushing to get to work for an 8:30am presentation that you are giving. Your car doesn't start. At that moment you get a call from a direct report that they are sick and can't make it in. They have the materials for your presentation. You then receive a text message from your x-spouse stating that your 8-year old daughter fell down the stairs and is being transported by ambulance to the Emergency Room. "She's should be okay" your spouse was sure to tell you.



How are you feeling? What's going on in your mind? How do you respond?

Resilience is about CHOICE





Activity: Defining Resilience











What is Resilience?

It's about adapting well in the face of challenges, adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats or whatever one experiences as significant sources of stress.





Resilient Leaders



- Stop, breath, listen
- Engage in deliberate personal renewal
- Create connections and deep relationships with colleagues
- Align their work to their vision
- Create a positive working climate
- Demonstrate optimism about the future
- Build Strong Networks & Alliances
- Open-minded



Resilient Organizations

- ▶ The essence of resilience for an organization is an ability to 'fail elegantly'.
- Resilient organizations are nimble during change adapting and spend their time innovating rather than collapsing.

Resilient organizations are made up of resilient people



Activity – Let's Practice









Neuroplasticity: Make New Connections

You can create new **Off-Ramps!**



The KEY is to proactively practice Transformative Resilience to create and reinforce new connections.









The Connection Machine

- Brain is a connection machine.
- Connections are made at an early age.
- Our thoughts lead to pathways in the brain.

I don't believe I am capable therefore I don't even try.











Reflection

- Reflect on your leadership history
- Identify a situation where you faced adversity and where you were resilient and thrived
- Explore with a partner
 - What internal factors helped?
 - What external factors helped you?
 - How were you transformed by the experience?



Transformative Resilience ™

Transformative Resilience is about *transforming* from adversity and becoming stronger and more capable than before.







The "P's" of Transformative Resilience ™





Activity: Resilience Assessment

1. Take the Resilience Assessment

2. Be as honest as you can.

3. Share with a learning partner.



Activity: Resilience Assessment









Discussion: Does Your College have a Resilient Culture?

Leaders need to "Walk the Talk"

- Are your leaders chronically stressed out?
- Do they model the 5 P's?
- Are they connected to each other?
- Do you invest in your leaders?

People prosper from success

- Do your faculty/staff feel successful early in their career?
- Are they regularly challenged and rewarded for successes?
- People learn while observing others
 - Do your new faculty/staff get assigned to successful workgroups?
- People need encouragement, support, and mentoring
 - Do you provide opportunities for faculty and staff to meet and support one another?

The single most powerful indicator of resilience is connections and interpersonal support



What can you do?

- FIRST Walk the talk!
- Examine your Culture
- Ensure all change initiatives have a solid resilience based strategy
- Invest in your leadership









Develop a holistic change plan

- Consider engagement how resilient is your workforce before initiating change?
- Examine the "P's" of Transformative Resilience
 - Does the change initiative have a Purpose?
 - Are there intentional Pause breaks?
 - Are there workgroups set up to Practice?
 - ▶ Do you have change champions to remain **Positive** and optimistic?
 - Do you take a step back throughout the change process to review lessons learned and explore Possibilities?



Invest in your leadership

Leaders make or break the culture

Ask Yourself:

- Does your college have opportunities for leaders to connect and collaborate?
- Do they have a mentor?
- Do they undergo intensive development to understand who they are and how to leverage their strengths?





Resilient Leaders

- Engage in deliberate personal renewal PAUSE
- Align their work to their vision PURPOSE
- Create a positive working climate POSITIVITY
- Demonstrate optimism about the future POSITIVITY
- Build Strong Networks & Alliances POSSIBILITIES
- Open-minded and think laterally POSSIBILTIEIS



Reflection

- At your table group discuss:
 - What should you start, stop, or continue to build a resilient culture in your college community?





"Resilience is not a trait. It is a capacity that involves behaviors, thoughts, and actions that can be learned.

American Psychological Association, 2014



Questions?

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