# **Envisioning Your Professional Path** Maintaining Work/Life Balance Excellence in Leadership Program Suzanne Soled, Ph.D.

## **Writing Prompt** • What does it mean to be the author of your own story? Create a sketch of where you want to go in life. List the *labels that apply to you*, including age, gender, profession, marital status, race, and nationality. For each label, write down "positive" or "negative" as it affects your life right now. Pick any statement that speaks to youwrite what this means to you, personally and professionally.

#### Overview of Session

- Envision Your Professional Path
  - Identify your Non-negotiables
  - Develop your Professional Goals Chart
  - Examples of Professional Plans
  - Develop your Professional Plan
  - Share your plan
- Work/Life Balance
  - What do you need?
  - How do your needs affect your professional path?

#### Factors to Consider

Identifying your non-negotiables

- What will you sacrifice for your job?
- What do you need to be sane?
- What do you need to be healthy?
- What do you need to be happy?

## What is non negotiable?

- Institution
  - Type: private, public, Carnegie classification
  - Size
- Money/benefits

  - Retirement plans 401K 403B
- Economics
  - Can you sell your home?
  - Can you afford to sell?

- Family & Friends
  - Close to family
- Health
  - Location best for your health

  - Health care plan
- Geographic
  - Location

# **Professional Goals Chart** What are my non negotiables? alumnideven, ent? Associate, Full Distinguished Professor, Department Chair?

| My Professional<br>Path | Title | Salary | Responsibilities | Institutional Conflicts | Personal<br>Conflicts |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 year<br>from now      |       |        |                  |                         |                       |
| 2-3 years<br>from now   |       |        |                  |                         |                       |
| 5 years<br>from now     |       |        |                  |                         |                       |
| 10 years<br>from now    |       |        |                  |                         |                       |
| 20 years<br>from now    |       |        |                  |                         |                       |
| Retirement              |       |        |                  |                         |                       |











## **Professional Path Activity** Imagine yourself in 1, 2-3, 5,10, 20 years out & at retirement. Identify your Position, Location, Salary, Responsibilities, & possible conflicts over the years. Option One: "Climbing the Ladder" Leadership Path Starting from your present position, outline the steps you would need to take to realize your most ambitious "upward" career track. Option Two: "Status Quo" Leadership Path Outline the steps you remained in your current position, leading within, or if you were coasting along the path of least resistance. Option Three: Fantasy (Leadership?) Path Outline what you would do if you quit your job today and started fresh somewhere else. What would you be itching to do?

| My Professional<br>Path | Title | Salary | Responsibilities | Institutional Conflicts | Personal<br>Conflicts |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
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| 5 years<br>from now     |       |        |                  |                         |                       |
| 10 years<br>from now    |       |        |                  |                         |                       |
| 20 years<br>from now    |       |        |                  |                         |                       |
| Retirement              |       |        |                  |                         |                       |

#### **Small Group Sharing**

- Groups of 3
- Share your map for 5 minutes
  - Hint: set a time
- Listen, ask clarifying questions

#### Work/Life Balance Issues

#### Can You Have It all?

- What role models do you have for work/life balance?
- · How do these issues play into your career map?

### What did you say?

Go back to Slide 2 and reread what you wrote

#### The Five Essential Elements of Wellbeing

Universal elements of wellbeing that differentiate a thriving life from one spent suffering. Here are five broad categories that are essential to most people:

- Financial Wellbeing:

   effectively managing your economic life
- Physical Wellbeing:

   having good health and enough energy to get things done on a daily basis
- Community Wellbeing:
   the sense of engagement you have with the area where you live

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#### Take Away

What is one thing your group gained from this discussion that you will take away?

## Top 5 Regrets of the Dying

- 1. I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.
- 2. I wish I hadn't worked so hard
- 3. I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings.
- 4. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.
- 5. I wish that I had let myself be happier.

### Living a Regret Free Life

If I could live my life over again...

#### Now what?

What are the **two most important things** you learned in today's session about:

- your professional path
- maintaining work/life balance?

How are your going to **incorporate what you learned today** about your professional path and about maintaining work/life balance into your career in your:

- current position
- future career path?

What steps do you need to do to put into this action?

# The 2 Most Important Things I learned in today's session about...

My Professional Path

- 1.
- ว

Maintaining work/life balance

- 1.
- 2.

## How will I incorporate what I've learned today?

Into my current position?

Into my future professional path?

# What steps do I need to do to put this into action?

- Skills to acquire
- People to get to know
- Committees to serve on
- Professional Development opportunities
- Who to share this with

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