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Addressing Wicked Problems in Practical Ways: Empowering Ethical Action in Higher Ed and Beyond

Cara B. Stone
Iowa State University

Anne Marie Gruber
University of Northern Iowa

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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

-Margaret Mead

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Addressing Wicked Problems in Practical Ways: Empowering Ethical Action in Higher Ed and Beyond

Cara B. Stone, Iowa State University, Parks Library
Anne Marie Gruber, University of Northern Iowa, Rod Library

Slides: http://bit.ly/wickedproblemsuni2017slides

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Wicked Problems Defined

- "traditional processes can't resolve them"
- "innumerable causes"
- "tough to describe"
- "[don't] have a right answer"
            (Camillus, 2008)
- "complex, interlocking, and hard to manage"
            (Ramaley, 2013)

inVICus. (2008). *Complicated just like life.* Retrieved from
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Complicated_just_like_life_(5227673406).jpg

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Professional Engagement

- Diversity & Inclusion
- Lack of awareness
- Creating opportunities
- Existing systems

Higher education: Service-learning pedagogy

- Societal issues, student misconceptions & lack of diversity experiences, need for professional development/skills
- Best practices: developing mutually beneficial/reciprocal relationships.
- Implications of critical information literacy movement and *Framework for Information Literacy in Higher Education*.

Small Group Discussion

Your examples – Were they addressed? – How?

Problem
Stakeholders
Action Steps

Coyot. (2016). *Magnifier glass, magnifying glass*. Retrieved from https://pixabay.com/p-1714172/?no_redirect

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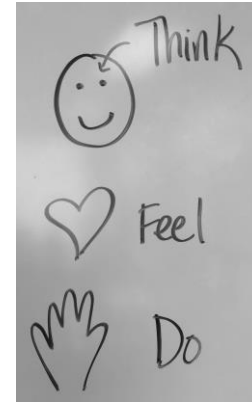
Next Steps: How do we walk the walk?

- Mission or strategic plan
- What are you already doing?
- Needs assessment
- Be very prepared when asking for permission and/or ready to ask for forgiveness
- Start somewhere
- Beginner's mind
- What is in your sphere? How can that grow?

9124 images. (2015). *People, crowded, steps, walking.* Retrieved from https://pixabay.com/p-692005/?no_redirect

Cara Stone, cstone@iastate.edu

Anne Marie Gruber, anne.gruber@uni.edu

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Images:

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Presentation Links

Slides: http://bit.ly/wickedproblemsuni2017slides

Handout: http://bit.ly/wickedproblemsuni2017handout

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