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Institute on Employment and Disability

Citizen-Centered Leadership

***Crossing the Transformational Threshold from
Consumer to Citizen***

Carol Blessing

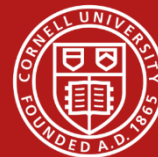
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You are a *citizen* where you
are defined by what you
contribute, not by what
you consume.

— *Mike Green*

J.Blessing Photography



Citizenship as a Social Construct – the Core of Person-Centered Work

- All people are born with gifts, strengths, capacity, potential and purpose in life
- All people have a right to equal access to opportunities to explore, discover and express those gifts
- All people have a responsibility to give of those gifts for the benefit of society/others
- In our culture, disability is recognized as significantly & negatively different from “normal”

*“We spend too much time institutionalizing the community.”
Mike Mayer*
- Disability and non disability are socially constructed ideas

“Change the conversation, change the culture.” Jamie Showkier

Beyond Accreditation - Five-Star Quality 2.0

From Clienthood to Citizenship

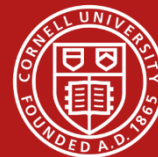


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Beware of the Traps

- Trap – believing that person-centered ‘thinking’ skills will change the balance of power
 - In fact, the danger is that equipping people with and requiring the use of tools reinforces ableism, oppression and maintains an imbalance of power
- Trap – believing that being in compliance is the same as being person-centered
- Trap – having programs in the community is the same as inclusion
- Trap – better than it was is a good as it needs to get

John O'Brien's Valued Outcomes



5 Valued Experiences	5 Community Tasks	5 Accomplishments
Belonging	Promoting interdependence	Assisting people to make & sustain connections, memberships & friendships
Being respected	Living inclusive stories	Enhancement of the person's positive reputation
Sharing ordinary places	Practicing hospitality	Increasing people's active involvement in the life of our communities
Contributing	Seeing & supporting capacities	Assisting people to develop & invest gifts & capacities
Choosing	Resolving conflicts	Increase choice & control in people's lives

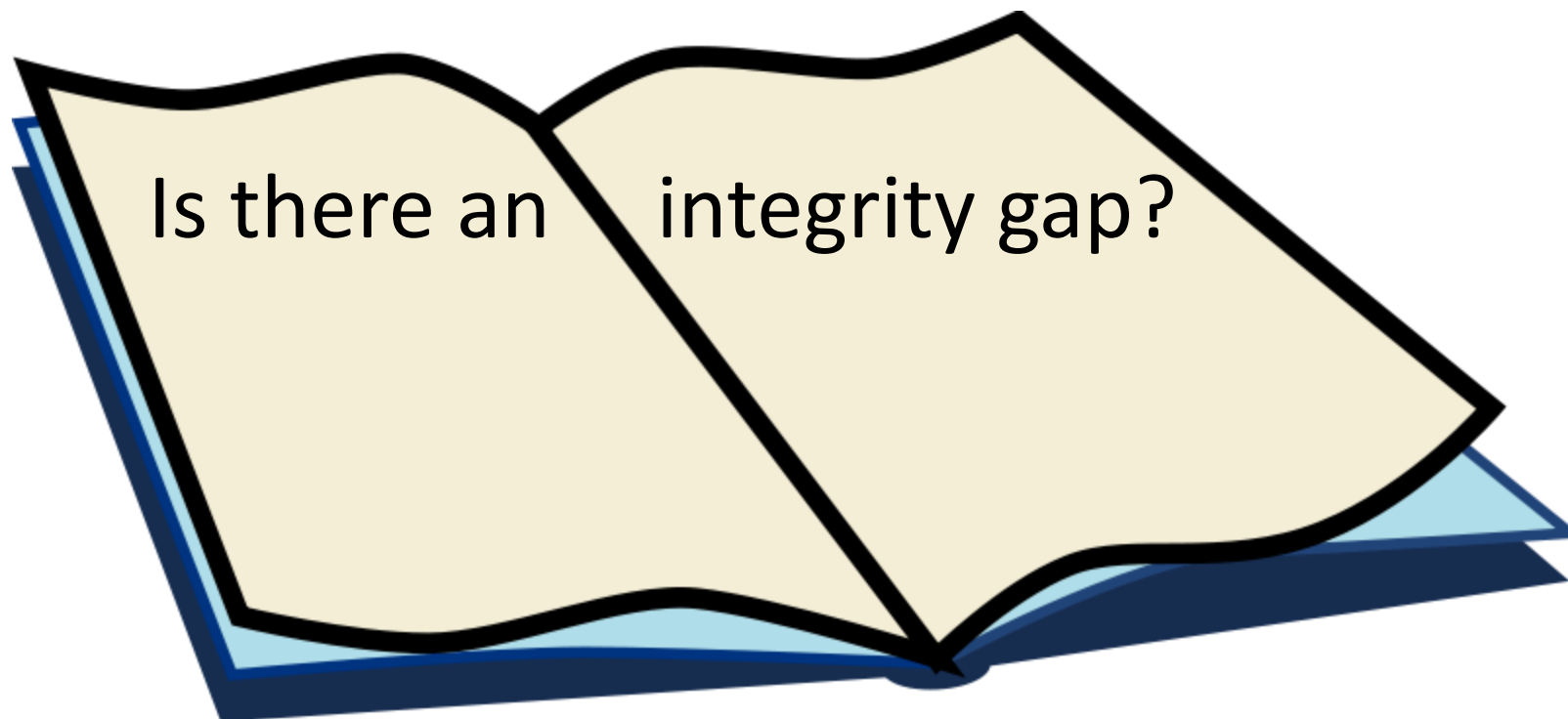
The Integrity Gap

“Between stimulus and response there is
a space.

In that space is our power to **choose our
response.**

In our response lies our growth and our
freedom.”

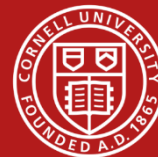
- Viktor E. Frankl



What is the story being told about disability in your work, social and community cultures?

Next Citizen-Centered Leadership Community of Practice starts 9/8/2020





Sources

- Citizen-Centered Leadership Community of Practice www.cclds.org
- Dufresne, D., & Mayer, M. Beyond Accreditation Five Star Quality
<https://www.abilitycenter.org/essays/five-star-quality-defined/>
- O'Brien, J. Make a Difference Support Valued Experiences *The Coloring Book*
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