

# **Obstacles, Pathways, and Cross-Roads: Meaning-Making for a “Scholarship of Integration”**

Renee Baird Snyder, University of Maryland & PIRE

William E. Sedlacek, University of Maryland

Larry D. Roper, Oregon State University

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# Who are we? Who are you?

- Researchers
- Practitioners
- Scholar-Practitioners
- Students
- Who are you?

# Why are we here? Why are you here?

- Concerned with the intersections of research and practice and how they inform our work
- Concerned with the challenges we all face in creating these intersections
- Hopeful that we can all share insights with one another and leave today energized & more focused toward individual commitment and collective action
- Why are you here?

# Scholarship, Practice, Research...

- Boyer's 4 forms of scholarship: discovery, integration, application, & teaching
- *NASPA Journal* special issue
- *Journal of College Student Development* special issue
- 'inhabit the gap' between research & practice (Komives JCSD 2001)
- 'scholarship of practice' (Carpenter JSCD 2001)
- How do we see our roles?

# Scholar-Practitioner: 3 tiers of Knowledge\*

- 1) know and understand theory and research about college students
- 2) engage in research with sound methodological skills and factual knowledge
- 3) have goals, know strategies to accomplish and know how to design and carry out activities/programs through which students learn

Schroeder, C. C., & Pike, G. R. (2001) . The scholarship of application in student affairs. *JCSD*, 42 (4), 342-355.

\* Schroeder and Pike adapted from Terenzini, 1993, in particular.

# What obstacles exist for us as we try to intersect our scholar-practitioner roles?

- Resources (financial, personnel, time)
- Support from colleagues and supervisors
- Historical expectations (“we’ve always done it this way...”)
- Our own isolationist efforts
- Limitations on our skills or knowledge
- Others?

## Let's take an example

- Alcohol-related in a current study
- Your present sphere of influence
- Potential others interested to widen the sphere of influence
- Who? Why? When? What do you do with the information? Is it enough to act upon? Then what?

# Sources of information about students: On campus

- Institutional research office
- Student affairs offices
- Admissions office
- Student organizations
- First-year student seminar data
- Campus data warehouse
- Academic offices/departments
- Others?

# Other sources of information about students: External to campus

- Journals
- Conferences
- Colleagues
- Associations (benchmarking)
- Newspapers: what do we do with media info?
- External to our field
- Others?

## Types of data we might have: Independent areas

- Information
- Attitudes
- Behavior

# Information

- How Many Students Are We Talking About?  
*Tracking*
- It's "Pop Sociology"  
*A Course on Racism*
- What's The Difference?  
*Your Cult is My Religion*

# Attitudes

- The Model Minority  
*Situational Attitude Scale*
- Is This The Place?  
*Perceptual Mapping*
- How Do I feel about Diversity?  
*Universal-Diverse Orientation*

# Behavior

- How Do I Do Legal Admissions?  
*Noncognitive Questionnaire*
- Who Should Get Scholarships?  
*Gates Millennium Scholars*
- *How Do I Retain and Graduate Students of Color?*  
*Noncognitive Variables*

# Oregon State University Example

- Example of research and practice intersecting
- Wide sphere of influence
- Noncognitive Variables (e.g., goal orientation, ability to work the system, leadership experience)
- Applied in developmental ways at Oregon State
- Applied in other ways

## So how do we overcome related obstacles in this example?

- Resources (financial, personnel, time)
- Support from colleagues and supervisors
- Historical expectations (“we’ve always done it this way...”)
- Our own isolationist efforts
- Limitations on our skills or knowledge
- Others?

## So why is this relevant?

- Why does it matter whether we intersect research and practice?

Professional ethics

Accountability in times of limited funds

To meet the needs of students

Other?

# Questions and Answers

Observations  
and Ideas



# Parting thoughts

- (Re)commit to being informed
- (Re)commit to engaging with colleagues for ideas and support
- (Re)commit to identifying resources and obstacles and creating bridges and paths
- (Re)commit to intersecting research and practice
- Utilize what you know in environments where you can make a difference that matters

# References

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# Thank you for joining us!

## Contact Information

- Larry D. Roper, Vice Provost for Student Affairs, Oregon State University  
[Larry.roper@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Larry.roper@oregonstate.edu)
- William E. Sedlacek, Professor of Education and Assistant Director of the Counseling Center for Testing, Research and Data Processing, University of Maryland  
[wsed@umd.edu](mailto:wsed@umd.edu)
- Renee Baird Snyder, Associate Research Scientist, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation  
[rbairdsnyder@pire.org](mailto:rbairdsnyder@pire.org)