

2026 Presidents Institute

A Deeper Purpose



January 4-7, 2026 ■ Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek ■ Orlando, FL



The Council of Independent Colleges

Spouses and Partners of New Presidents Program 2026

Presented by

List Presenters Below

- Angela Cant
Presidential Spouse
Wilkes University (PA)
- Randy Richardson
Presidential Spouse
Westminster College (PA)
- Myra Williams
Presidential Spouse
Hampton University (VA)

Thank you to our sponsor

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2026 Presidents Institute
Spouses and Partners of New Presidents Program

Program Objectives

- Enhance your understanding of the role
- Engage in fellowship with others new in the role
- Equip you with tools for success
- Provide support and guidance

Making Connections

- Making Connections Activity
- Introductions

Name

Institution

Length of Service

Personal item to share about your institution

Refreshment Break

Please return by 10:15am

Great Expectations

A dramatic *tour de force* by R. Richardson, Ph.D.*

**with apologies to Charles Dickens*

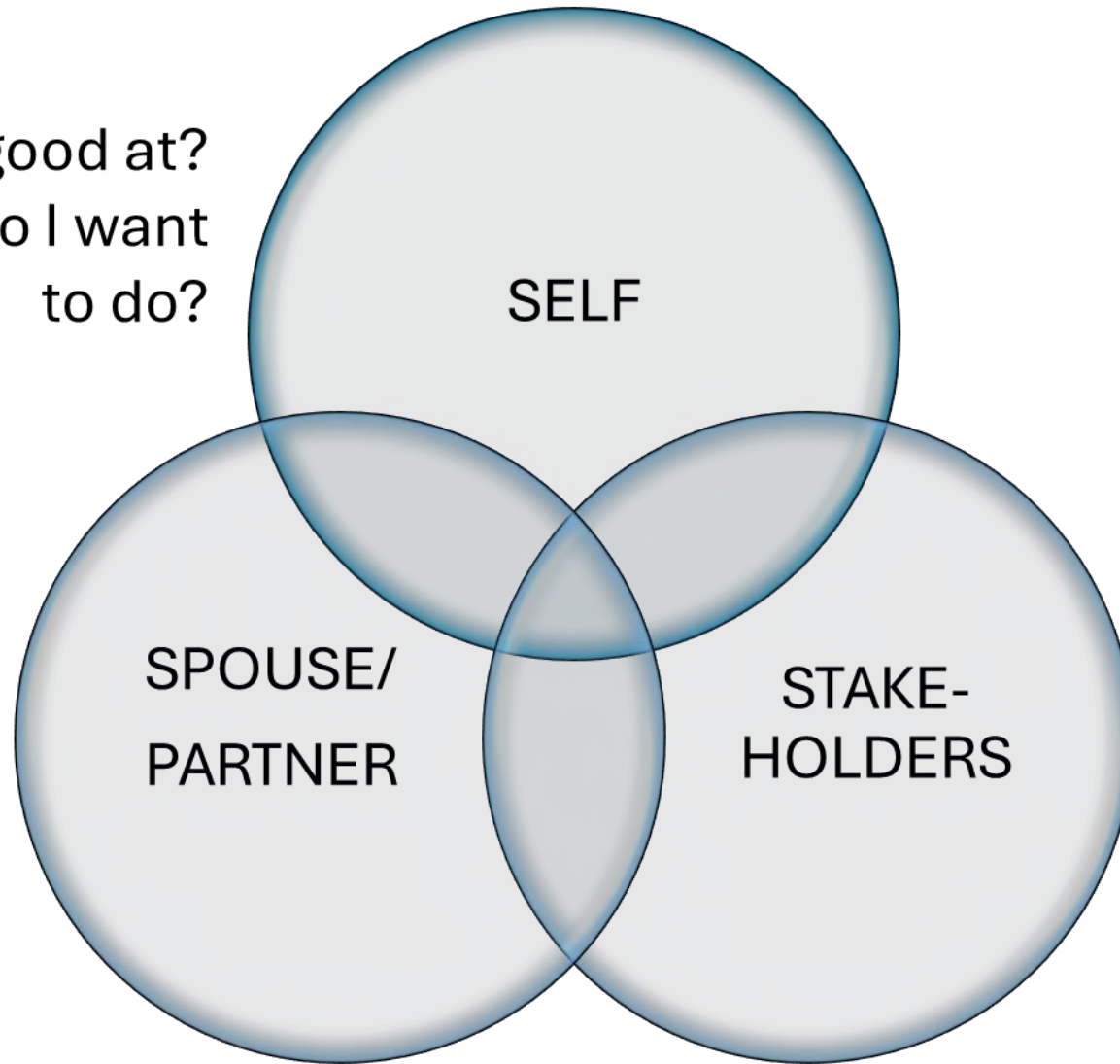
Rolling with the Roles

Exploring the many roles of the Presidential Spouse/Partner

Spheres of Consideration

What am I good at?
What do I want
to do?

What does my
spouse/partner
need/want/expect
from me?



What does my campus
and community
need/want/expect
from me?

The Sphere of Self

- What am I good at? What do I enjoy doing?
- What do I bring to this role?
- What do I want out of this role?
- What factors will impact my level of engagement
 - Personal
 - Career
 - Family

The Sphere of Spouse/Partner



- What does my partner need/want/expect of me?
- How can I best support them in this role?
 - Practically – relieving the burden
 - Emotionally – providing encouragement and support
 - Intelligently – providing advice
- Home – a refuge to be your authentic selves
- Could you be a liability? Cautionary tales.
- How will you respond when it get's scary?

Luncheon for New Presidents and Spouses/Partners

Bonnet Creek Salons XI-XII
Please return by 1:45pm

The Sphere of Stakeholder

- Who are the Stakeholders?
- What might they need/want/expect from me?

People and Resources to Help You Succeed

- Your Partner
 - Working with your partner
 - Getting on the same page
 - Boundaries and non-negotiables
 - Annual or regular reviews
 - Sharing calendars

People and Resources to Help You Succeed

- Campus
 - Research the university and the community
 - Get to know key staff
 - Work with the Presidents Assistant to understand expectations and develop a semester/annual plan for events
 - Get a campus email account and receive campus wide announcements
 - Use social media as an information resource
 - Add athletic schedules to your calendar

Refreshment Break

Please return by 3:15pm



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I Wish I Had Known What I Know Now

- Cautionary tales and hard-earned advice
- Ask us anything
- Parking lot topics

Presidential Reflections

- Greg Cant
President
Wilkes University (PA)
- Darrell Williams
President
Hampton University (VA)
- Kathy Brittain Richardson
President
Westminster College (PA)



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Next up

- **6:30pm - Reception for New Presidents and Spouses and Partners – Waterside Lanai**
- **7:00pm – Dinner for New Presidents and Spouses and Partners – Bonnet Creek Salons XI-XII**
- **Day 2 Review**

Spouses and Partners of New Presidents Program 2026

Presented by

Navigating Change with Resiliency



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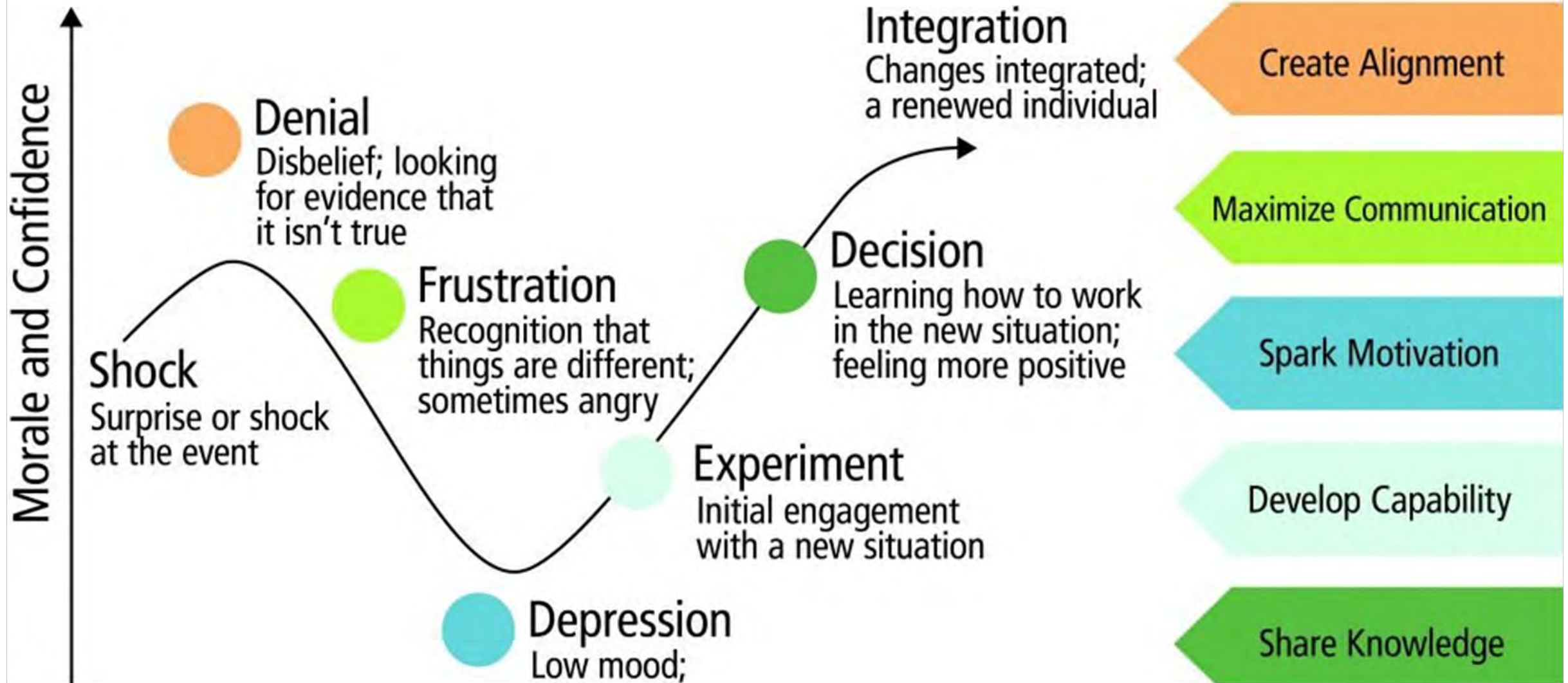
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Resiliency

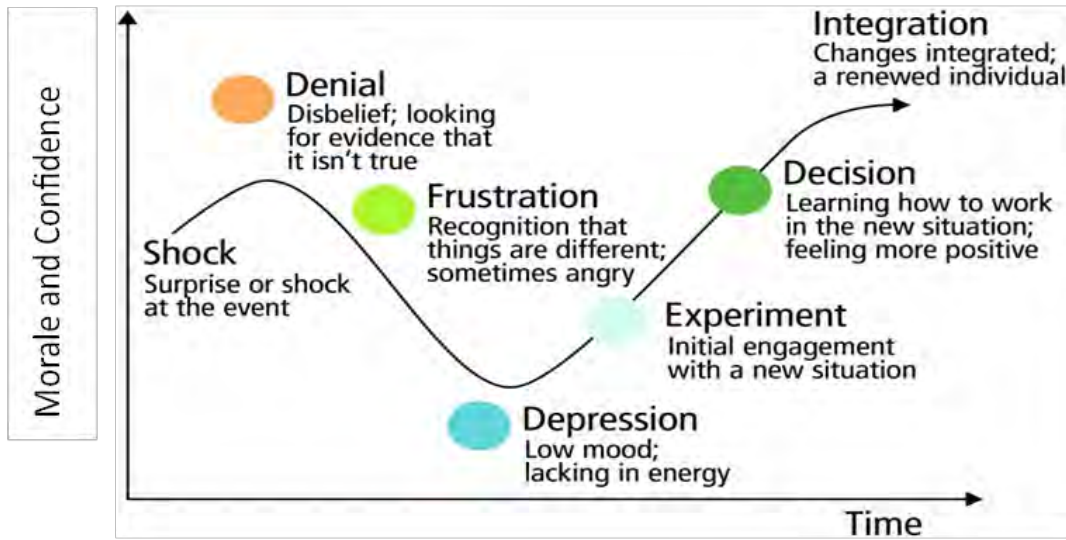
- Resilient people demonstrate flexibility, durability, an attitude of optimism, and openness to learning
- The ability to recover quickly from change, hardship or misfortune.



THE KÜBLER-ROSS CHANGE CURVE



THE KUBLER-ROSS CHANGE CURVE



Accelerate Change!

Planning for Success can help you...

1. Be intentional about your role.
2. Demonstrate resiliency along the way.
3. Do what excites you and what is impactful in this role.
4. Determine concerns you have and overcome them with action items.
5. Open your eyes to new possibilities.
6. Embrace and be open to change
7. Create a meaningful legacy.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO...

CREATE ALIGNMENT

MAXIMIZE
COMMUNICATION

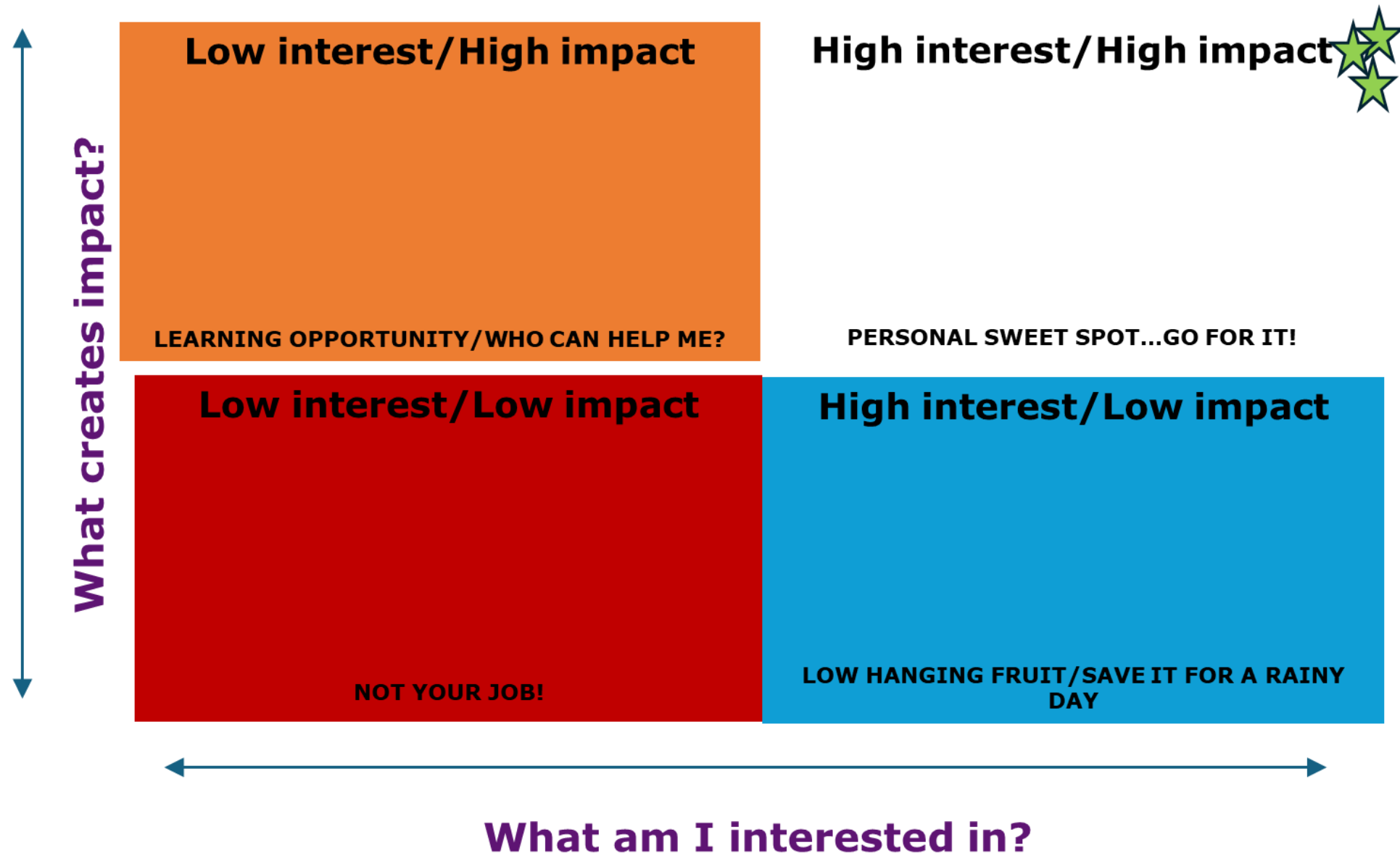
SPARK MOTIVATION

DEVELOP CAPABILITY

SHARE KNOWLEDGE

The Matrix

Mapping Your Personal Interest with Institutional Impact



Small Group Break Out Sessions



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Small Group Break Out Sessions

Choose our own Adventure!

Possible Topics

- Gender Factor
- Living on Campus
- Fundraising
- Balancing your own career
- Contracts and paid positions

Other Topics?

Refreshment Break

Please return by 10:45am



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Managing your Public Persona



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Managing your public persona

- How visible do you want to be?
- Will you use social media? How?
- Do you have a Presidential Spouse/Partner page on the university website?
- Do you have business cards?
- What is your title?

Planning for Success



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Planning for Success

- Be intentional about your role.
- Demonstrate resiliency along the way.
- Do what excites you and what is impactful in this role.
- Determine concerns you have and overcome them with action items.
- Open your eyes to new possibilities.
- Embrace and be open to change.
- Create a meaningful legacy.

Write a brief description of your vision for success in the role of presidential spouse/partner:

My Strengths

My Challenges

My Opportunities

My Action Items

Closing Remarks

Evaluation

2025 Spouses and
Partners of New
Presidents Program

Evaluation QR Code and
Link



**Thank you for attending
this session!**

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