

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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# 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

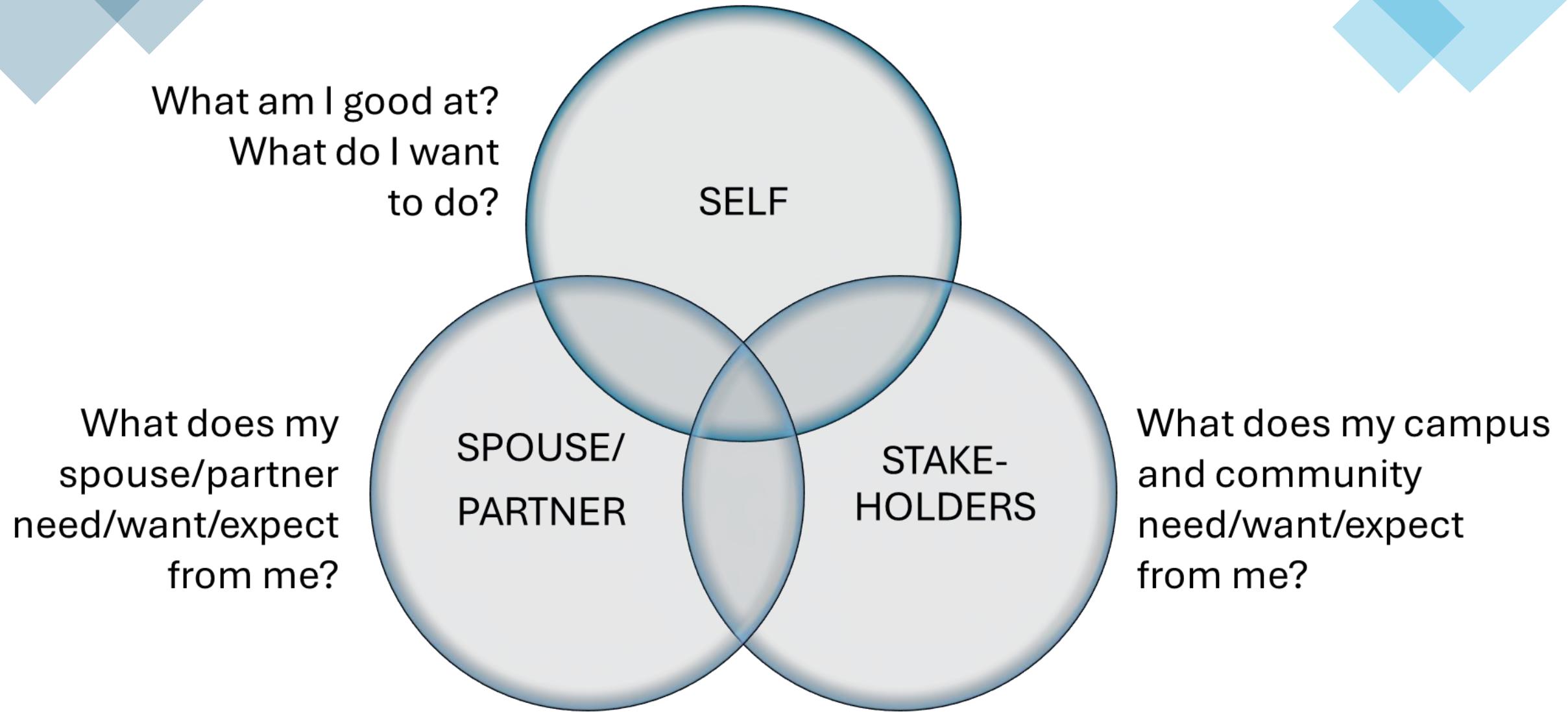
A dramatic *tour de force* by R.Richardson, Ph.D.\*

*\*with apologies to Charles Dickens*

# Rolling with the Roles

Exploring the many roles of the Presidential Spouse/Partner

# Spheres of Consideration



# 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 gets 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

# 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)

# 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

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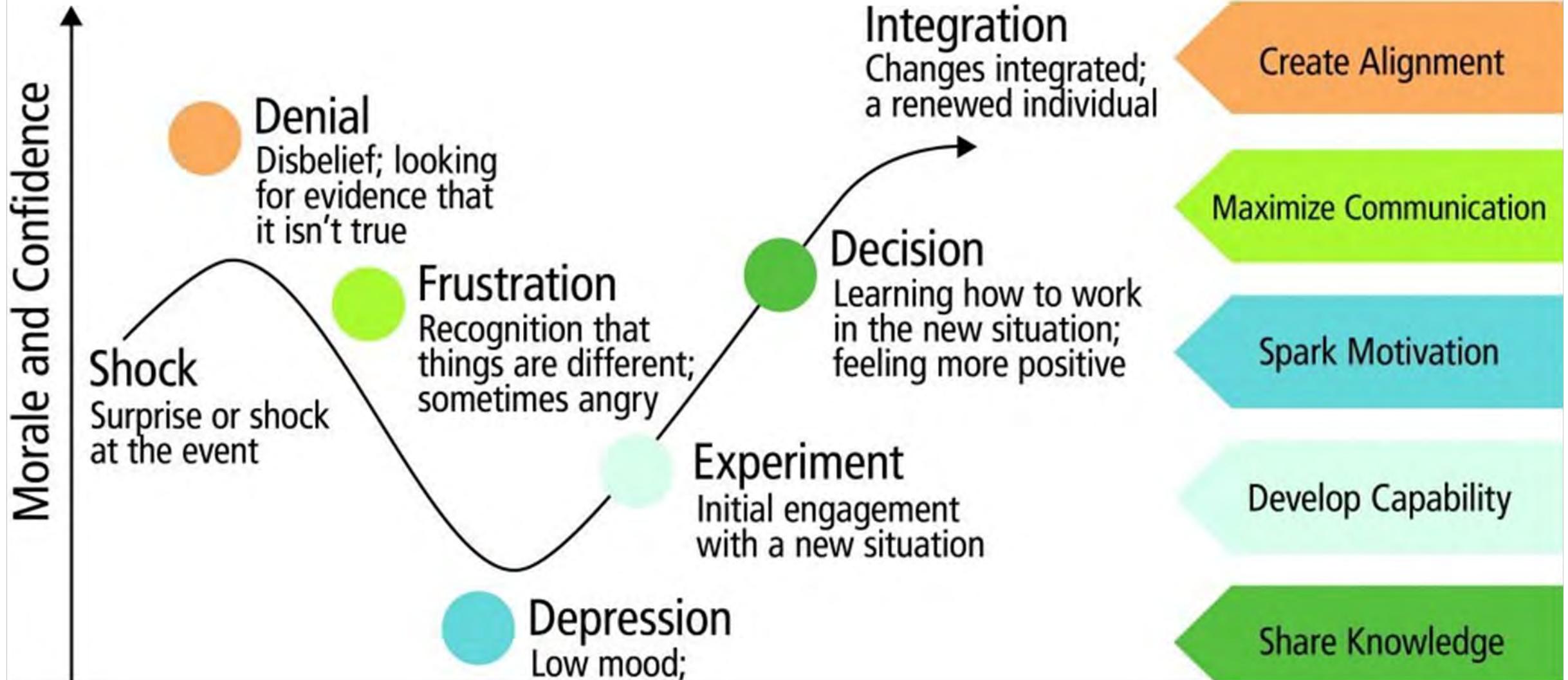
# Navigating Change with Resiliency

# Resiliency

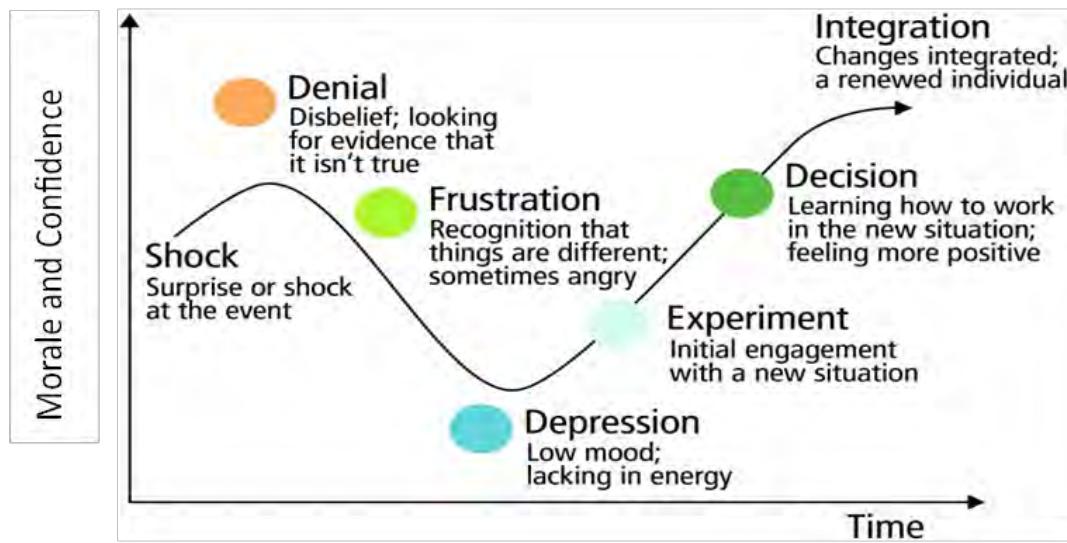
- Resilient people demonstrate **flexibility, durability, an attitude of optimism, and openness to learning**
- The ability to recover quickly from change, hardship or misfortune.



# THE KÜBLER-ROSS CHANGE CURVE



# THE KUBLER-ROSS CHANGE CURVE



## Accelerate Change!

Planning for Success can help you...

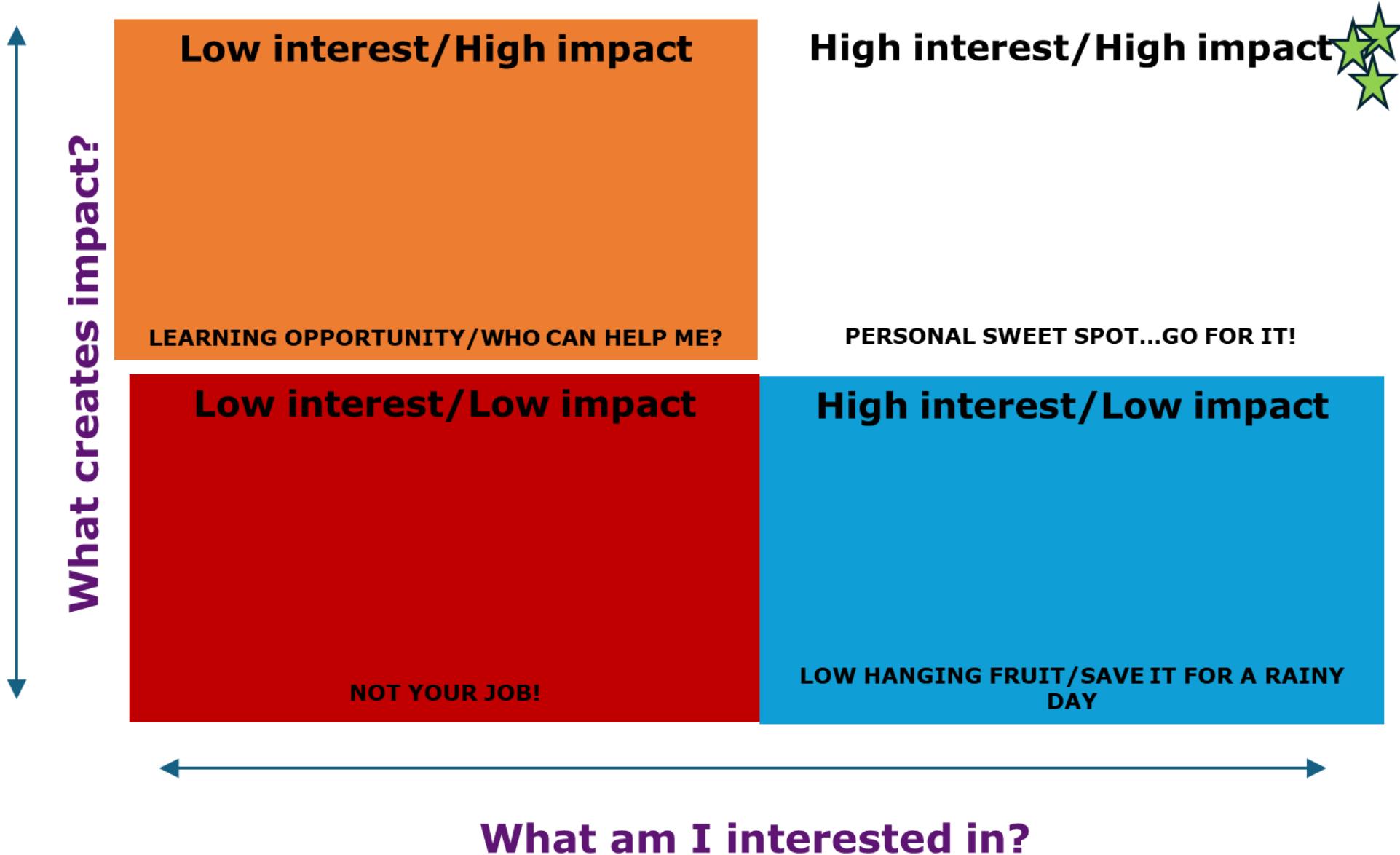
1. Be intentional about your role.
2. Demonstrate resiliency along the way.
3. Do what excites you and what is impactful in this role.
4. Determine concerns you have and overcome them with action items.
5. Open your eyes to new possibilities.
6. Embrace and be open to change
7. Create a meaningful legacy.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO...



# The Matrix

# Mapping Your Personal Interest with Institutional Impact



# Small Group Break Out Sessions

# 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

# Managing your Public Persona

# 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

# 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!**

**Ellucian**