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Connecting (circa 2023)

MC² Midwest Conference on Missionary Care

Jolene Erlacher, Ed.D.
jolene@leadingtomorrow.org

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The Iceberg of Culture

Explicit

- Languages**
(verbal & non-verbal communication)
- Explicit behaviors**
(Habits & traditions re: Food, housing, clothing, etc.)
- Know-how**
(communication codes, tools, tech, etc.)
- Institutions**
(organizational modes: family, business, education, etc.)

Implicit

- Norms**
(Do's and Don'ts)
- Values**
(priorities, needs, power, etc.)
- Psychology & cognitive processes**
(perception, learning, knowledge, memory, etc.)

Jolene Erlacher, Ed.D.
jolene@leadingtomorrow.org

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“Every few hundred years throughout Western history, a sharp transformation has occurred. In a matter of decades, society altogether rearranges itself—its world view, its basic values, its social and political structures, its arts, its key institutions. Fifty years later a new world exists. And the people born into that world cannot even imagine the world in which their grandparents lived and into which their own parents were born. Our age is such a period of transformation.”



Jolene Erlacher, Ed.D.
jolene@leadingtomorrow.org

Drucker, P. F. (1992, September 1). The New Society of Organizations. Harvard Business Review.
<https://hbr.org/1992/09/the-new-society-of-organizations>

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Key Cultural Change #1

Pursuit of absolute truth

- Science
- Reason/Logic
- Human Capabilities

Questioning of all metanarratives

- Personal (pluralistic) truth
- Deconstruction (history, gender, religion, missions, etc.)

Jolene Erlacher, Ed.D.
jolene@leadingtomorrow.org

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Key Cultural Change #1

Implication:

We cannot assume understandings or perceptions

Takeaway:

Take time to understand perspectives as you connect

Jolene Erlacher, Ed.D.
jolene@leadingtomorrow.org

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Key Cultural Change #2

Objective reality

- Facts
- Logic
- Reason
- “Proof is reality”

Subjective reality

- Emotion
- Story
- Experience
- “Perception is reality”

Jolene Erlacher, Ed.D.
jolene@leadingtomorrow.org

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Key Cultural Change #2

Implication:

We must connect with hearts and emotions

Takeaway:

Engage connection through authenticity (emotion), story, and experiences

Jolene Erlacher, Ed.D.
jolene@leadingtomorrow.org

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Key Cultural Change #3

Institutions

- Centralized
- Position is authority
- Distance

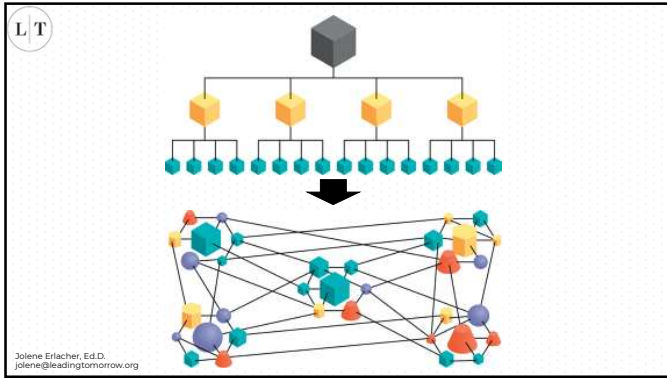
Individuals

- Decentralized
- Relationship is authority
- Connection

Jolene Erlacher, Ed.D.
jolene@leadingtomorrow.org

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jolene@leadingtomorrow.org

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Key Cultural Change #3

Implication:
We must connect as individuals with individuals

Takeaway:
Individualize connections (virtually & in person)

Jolene Erlacher, Ed.D.
jolene@leadingtomorrow.org

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Examples with Different Tools

<p>Virtual:</p> <p>#1: Be present. Observe trends, posts, topics outside our "algorithm"</p> <p>#2: Overtly discern and express interest, empathy, and emotion</p> <p>#3: Individualize and personalize messages</p>	<p>In Person:</p> <p>#1: History and story sharing</p> <p>#2: Make eye contact, participate in experiences, express emotion</p> <p>#3: Use names, remember details, give specific feedback</p>
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