

# Leading From Where You Are

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April 6, 2016

Menah Pratt-Clarke, JD, PhD

Vice President Strategic Affairs/Vice Provost Inclusion and Diversity

# The Leader

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*"The task of the leader is to get his people from where they are..."*



*"...to where they have not been."  
- Henry Kissinger*

# The One in Front

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# The one on top

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# The Conductor

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# In Front of the Band

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# Leading the Way

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# Getting the Praise

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# Mister Know It All

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# One with all the titles

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## Setting your own job titles



comics.knreddy.com

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# Rethink Leadership

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**IT'S TIME  
FOR A  
RADICAL  
RETHINK**



# My Journey

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# Lessons from the Journey

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Getting  
Started

What do I want to do when I  
grow up?

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# “Read Books”

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# Off to Iowa

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# Loving It

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# Leadership Lesson #1

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Find your passion

- Your passion should be your profession

Assess your strengths and weakness, but be unapologetic about your strengths

Acknowledge your weakness and work on it

Set goals – ambitious, “unrealistic,” exciting, bold

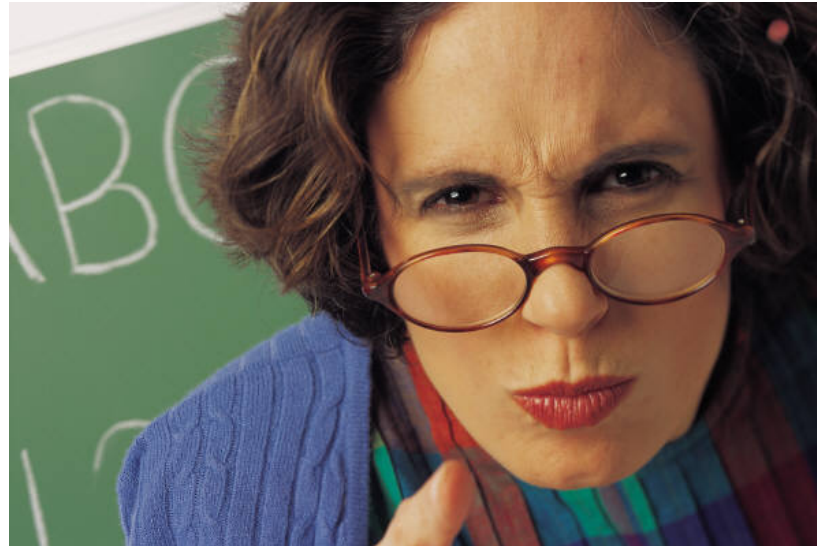
- Short 1-3 years
- Long 3-10 years

Pursue relentlessly



# Uh Oh, Oh No

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# Off to Law School

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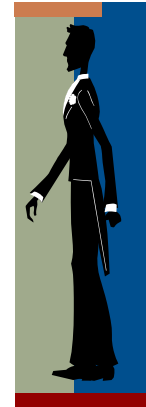
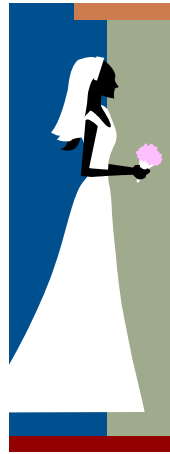
# Doctorate, too

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# Marriage

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# Now What?

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# Judge Sam Ervin, III Law Clerk

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# Being a Lawyer

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# Pregnant! Finally!

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# Baby #1: Emmanuel

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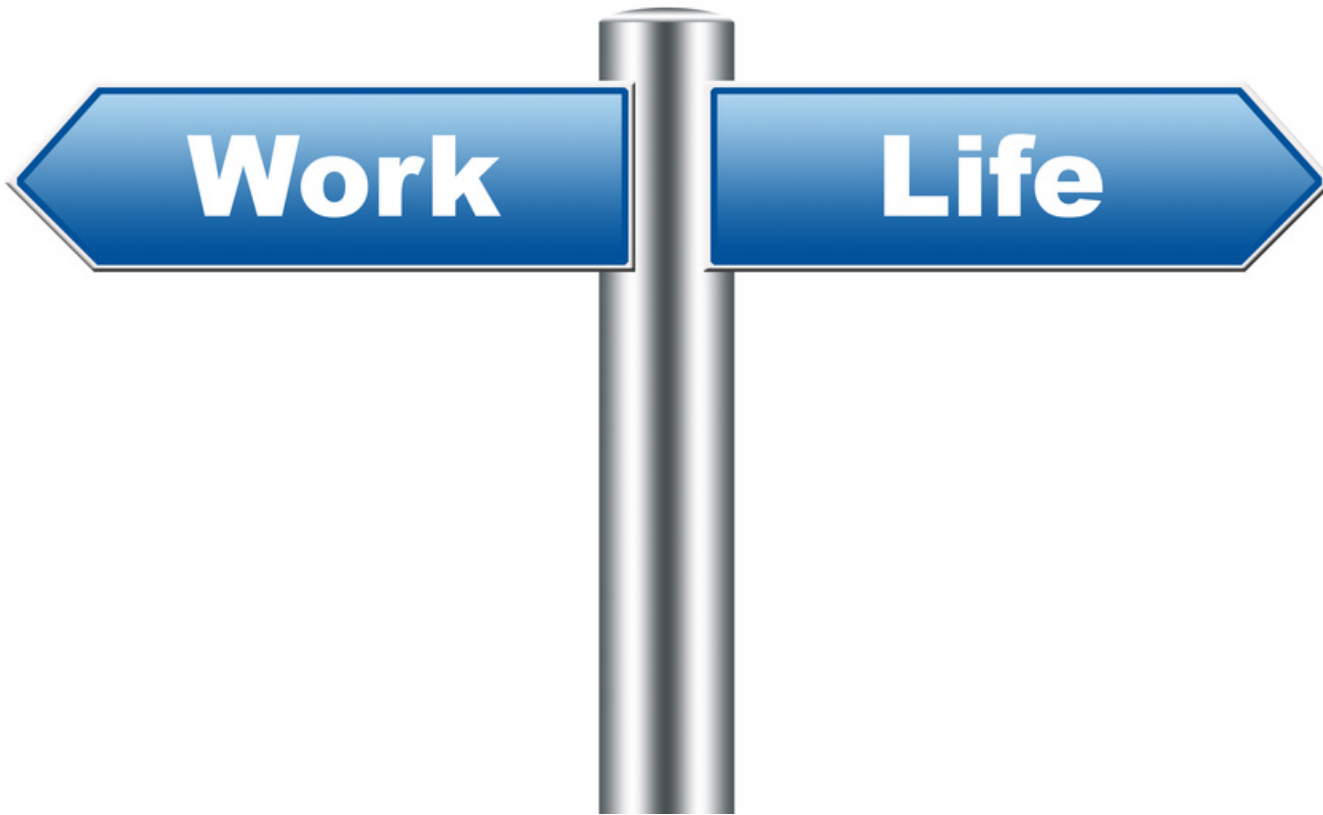


Daycare Drop Off  
6 am to 6 pm

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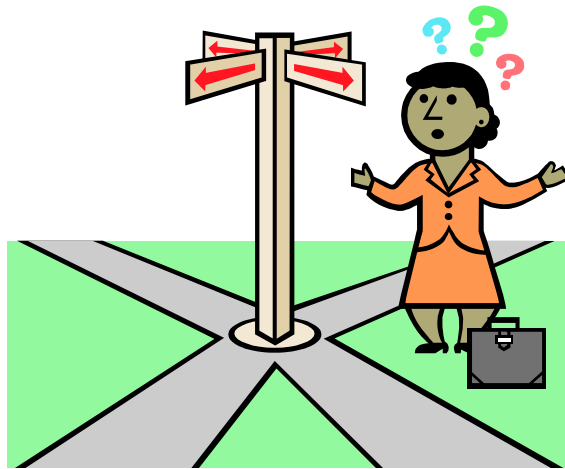






# Decision Time

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# Leadership Lesson #2

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Passions can change

Goals can change

Be “ok” with change

Be “unafraid”

Be willing to take risks

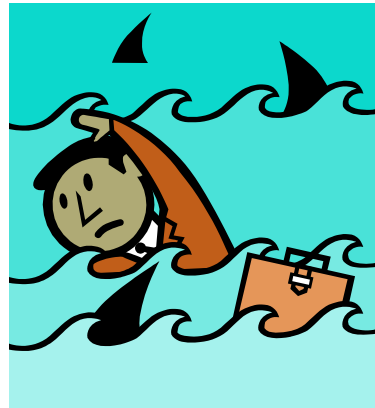
Actually, become ridiculously excited about change and its potential for your life

# The imagination.....

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Our imagination has the tremendous capacity to exceed reality.

*There are rarely sharks in the water*



# Dive and Float Up

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# Start Looking



# Leadership Lesson #3

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Be unafraid to look for another opportunity

Apply even if you don't think you are qualified

Continually build your network of relationships

Often it is who you know and who knows you



# Baby #2: Raebeekkah

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# Vanderbilt University: Real Estate? Tax Lawyer?

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# Construction Lawyer

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# University Compliance Officer

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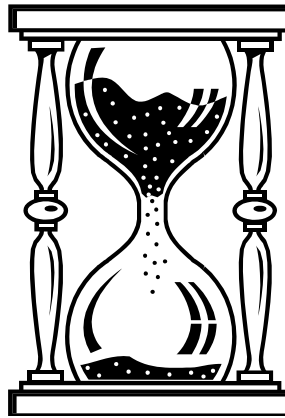
# Assistant Secretary

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# 8 Years

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# Overworked, Unhappy

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# Exhausted!

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# Leadership Lesson #4

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Are you decently content?

Is it time for change?

Are you feeling unvalued?





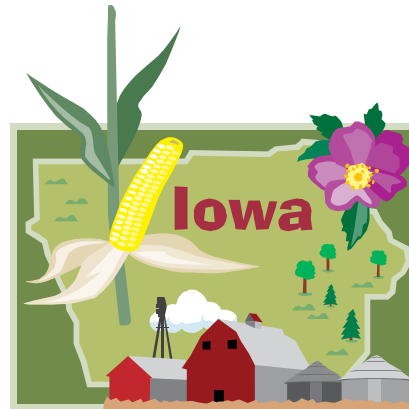
# Priorities -- Grandma

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# Exploring the Midwest

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# What do I want to do when I grow up?

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# Starting at the Bottom

## University of Illinois, Urbana

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# Administrative

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**Associate Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Access and Assistant Provost**

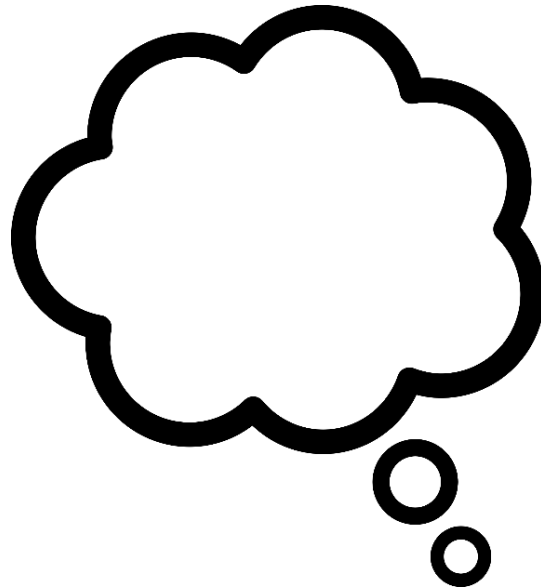
**Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Access and Assistant Chancellor**

**Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Access and Associate Chancellor**

**Associate Chancellor for Strategic Affairs and Associate Provost for Diversity**

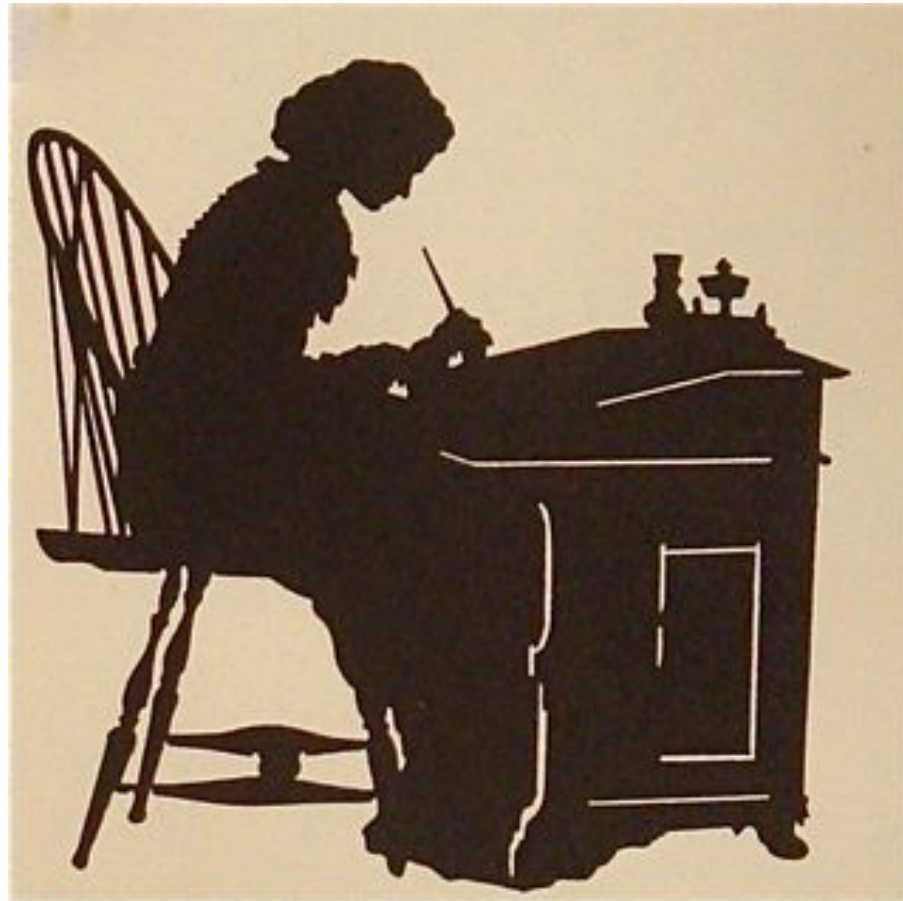
# Something more

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I needed to write

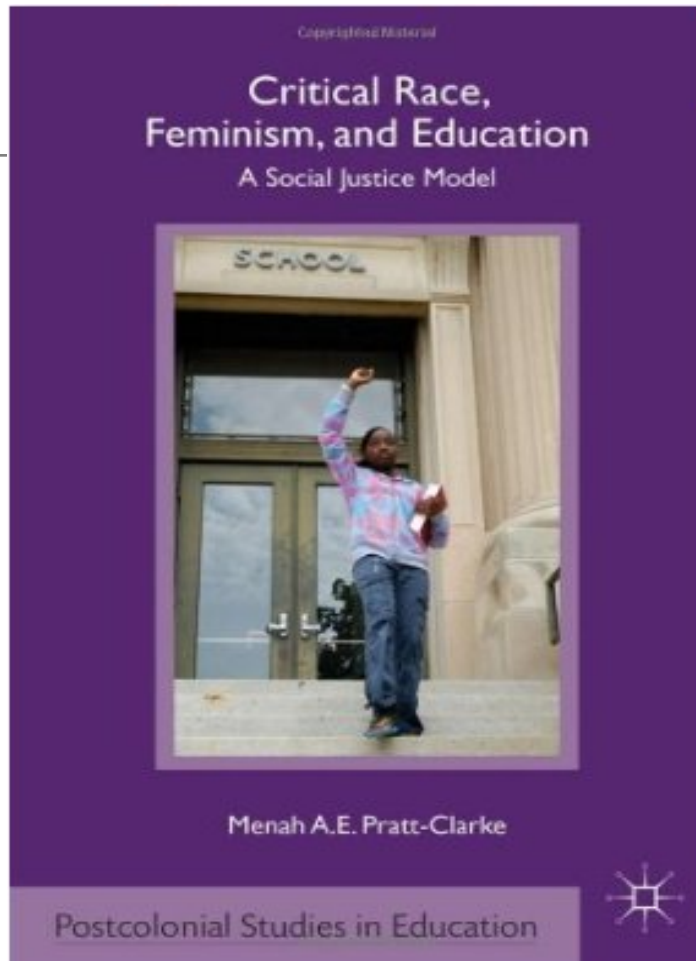
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## ***CRITICAL RACE, FEMINISM AND EDUCATION: A SOCIAL JUSTICE MODEL***

**Menah Pratt-Clarke**

*(transformative transdisciplinary critical race and Black feminist scholarship)*



“Menah Pratt-Clarke’s study represents one of the most thorough integrations of the law, feminism, sociology and African American Studies.—**Tracy Sharpley-Whiting, author of *Pimps Up, Ho’s Down***”

Pratt-Clarke reminds us and demands from us a careful scrutiny of the meaning of racial-gender justice for black girls and women-- **Jennifer F. Hamer, *Black Women, Gender and Families***

This book, based upon a social justice approach, is a must-read —**Adrien K. Wing, author of *Critical Race Feminism***

With her insightful new book, *Critical Race, Feminism, and Education: A Social Justice Model*, Pratt-Clarke shows herself to be a meticulous scholar, a tireless advocate, and a passionate storyteller. —**Pearl Cleage, author of *Mad at Miles: A Blackwoman's Guide to Truth***

Recommended as a case study for courses in feminism; black feminism; communication studies; media; law; sociology; history; political science; critical race studies; critical race feminism; African-American studies; and race, class, and gender studies.

<http://www.menahprattclarke.com/>



# From Sharecropping to the Academy

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# Leadership Lesson #5

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Actualize your own potential

- “I matter; I’m important”

Help others to actualize their potential

- “You matter; You are important”

# 9 Years

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# Virginia Tech

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You interested?

Where?

Southwest Virginia?

West Virginia?





# Decision Time

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# Goodbye Illinois?

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# Hello, Blacksburg

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Vice President for Strategic Affairs

Vice Provost for Inclusion and Diversity

Professor, College of Education





# Courageous Transitions

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Small Town

Southwest Virginia

Cold Weather



# Loving It

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# Lesson #1: Passion/Profession

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Find your passion

- Your passion should be your profession

Set goals – ambitious, “unrealistic,” exciting

- Short 1-3 years
- Long 3-10 years

Pursue relentlessly



# Lesson #2: Change Happens

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Passions can change

Goals can change

Be “ok” with change

Actually, become ridiculously excited about change and its potential for your life

# Lesson #3: Be Bold and Unafraid

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Be unafraid to look for another opportunity

Apply even if you don't think you are qualified

Continually build your network of relationships

It is really who you know and who knows you



# Lesson #4: Continued Assessment

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Are you decently content?

Is it time for change?

Are you feeling unvalued?

# Lesson #5: Transformation

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- Actualize your own potential
  - “I matter; I’m important”
  
- Use your potential to help others to actualize their potential
  - “You matter; You are important”

# Getting Started

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# Start with yourself

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**“What fits your busy schedule better, exercising one hour a day or being dead 24 hours a day?”**



Gentle  
REMINDER:  
Take care of myself  
today.



Lisa A. McCrohan, [www.barefootbarn.com](http://www.barefootbarn.com)

# Ask yourself questions:

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# What are the rocks in your life?

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# Find your ideal life metaphor: Colorful Canvas

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# Can you leave footprints with your life?

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# Are you getting it to give it?

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Ut Prosim (that I may serve)



# Are you having fun?

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# Do you feel joy?

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# Courageous Change

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**Close** some doors today. Not because of **pride, incapacity** or **arrogance**, but simply because they lead you **nowhere.**

-Paulo Coelho

[WWW.LIVELIFEHAPPY.COM](http://WWW.LIVELIFEHAPPY.COM)

# Leading from where you are

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Not about being in front

Not about being in charge

Not about being on top

Not about being in control



Leading from where you are

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**ABOUT JUST BEING**

# Leading from where you are

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Being you ...

Doing what you love....

Doing it well ...

Doing it for a greater good ...

And doing it for your own personal well-being

# Leading from where you are

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About following .....

Following a greater, grander mission that is bigger than your own life

Following your heart, your dreams, your passions in many spaces and places: family, community, and work

# If you are on the ladder or trying to get to the ladder...

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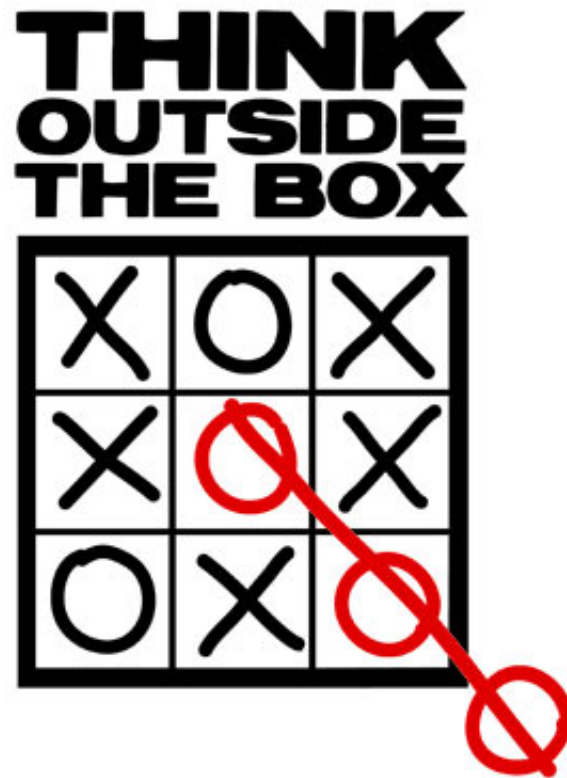
# You Can Come Down

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# You Can Step Out of the Line

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# You can lead from where you are

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# Celebrate .... often

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# Leading From Where You Are

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