You Are What Your Community Needs

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Agenda

5 Questions to Think About When Engaging in Community Leadership

- Who are you?
- What part of the solution do you own?
- Who are you going to bring with you?
- What will you do when you fail?
- How will you measure success?
Getting Started

- Allow me to introduce myself...
  - Not a native Topekan (army brat)
  - HUGE Washburn University fan- GO ICHABODS!
  - Passionate about civic engagement, education, youth empowerment
  - Hobbies: Reading, running, spending time with family and friends
Who Are You?
Understanding Yourself as a Leader

- Misconceptions about community leadership
  - Don’t have to be perfect
  - Don’t need permission

- What do YOU have to offer?
  - What is your why?
  - Think about your unique traits, abilities, and connections
What Part of the Solution Do You Own?
The Better Question to Ask...

- Think about the unique perspective you bring to the issue
- Who do you know...and who do they know?
- What do you have that others don’t have?
- What is keeping you from getting started?
Map Your Connections

- Washburn University
- Fellowship Bible Church
- Chipotle
- Junction City High School
- Forge
- Topeka Public Schools
- Kansas Bar Association
- Kansas Association for Youth
- Leadership Greater Topeka
- Topeka Civic Theatre
- CrimeStoppers
- SevenEight Five Magazine
Pine Ridge Prep - Recognizing Your Piece of the Puzzle
Who Are You Going to Bring With You?
Find Partners in Crime

- Think about like-minded individuals
- Opportunity to empower others
- What are you willing to give up?
  - Not needing the credit
  - Making yourself vulnerable, uncomfortable
Shawnee County Campaign for Grade Level Reading - Partnership in Action
What Will You Do When You Fail?
Not if, but when…

- This work involves risk
  - Difficult when we are personally invested
- Failure doesn’t mean the end
- How do we learn, grow, and move on?
  - Importance of honesty
Top City Live- Failure, but...
How Will You Measure Success?
Have to Know Where We’re Going

- Important early on to know how you will define success
  - Short term vs. long term success
- Equitable success
  - How will you ensure success for ALL individuals/groups you are trying to reach?
  - Important to engage unique voices
Momentum 2022 - Measuring Impact
Recap

- Who are you?
- What part of the solution do you own?
- What are you going to bring with you?
- What will you do when you fail?
- How will you measure success?
THANK YOU!

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