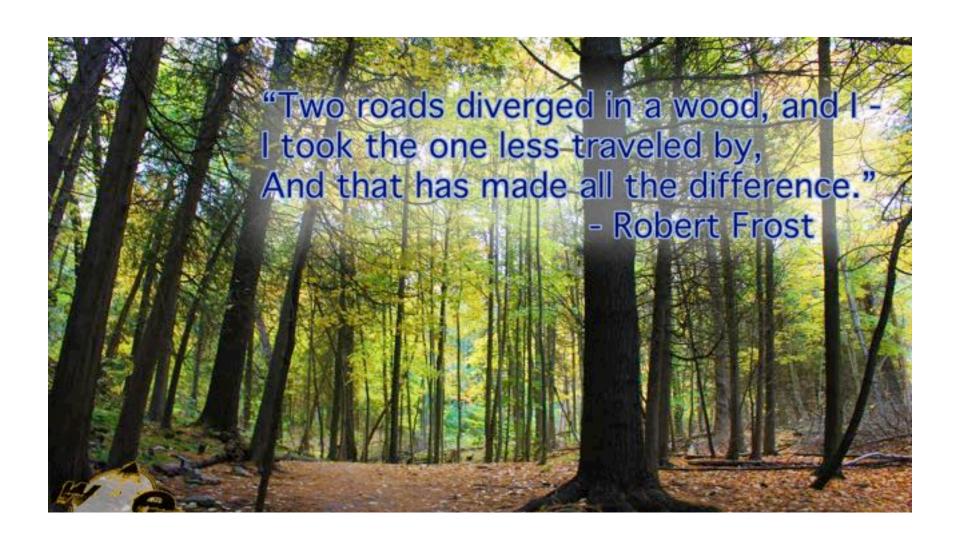
# SRV: The Road Less Traveled Reflections On Our Personal And Collective Journeys

Darcy Elks

www.darcyelks.com

darcyelks@aol.com









# Some Metaphors

- Airplane going down runway and taking off
- Lone sailor
- Open doors/closed doors
- David and Goliath
- Going through the swamp
- Soaring freely



Training
17 events
962 Participants
People who are devalued, families, Hs workers advocates

**Impact** 

30 people receiving support from Region V now own their own home

Much more we do not know about

Nebraska Value-Based Education Coalition

Formed in 2006

12 members

2 Staff

Representing 12 Organizations

Vision

2010 Summer Institute on Authentic Inclusive Lifestyles

> Inclusion Workgroup

Evaluation

PASSING workshop in 2008

## Lessons I Have Learned Along The Way

#### Teaching

- Presenting and teaching is not always the same thing
- Be clear about what you are teaching and why
- Life has to be breathed into the material
- Model coherency does work: It is possible to maintain integrity of WW's work and make it accessible at the same time

# Lessons (cont.)

- Having a vision is as important as understanding devaluation
- People need a variety of different ways to "touch" the ideas and work with them over and over again
- All teachers should have recent practical experience re: assisting people to find and get rooted in valued social roles
- Balanced team of teachers is best people inside and outside of the system

#### Lessons

- Mentoring and Leadership Development
  - A mentor is creative, committed, open, honest, a learner, and leader who has a passion for passing on knowledge
  - Mentoring is a kind of dance
  - Care and consciousness needed
  - Process should be individualized, flexible, and take in to account personal gifts, experiences, and abilities and can completed in reasonable time
  - Not everyone is suited to mentoring

#### Lessons

- Implementation
- Implementation is much more complex than realized
  - Hard to keep the focus on people
  - We often have fuzzy or small vision
  - Lack of clarity (and honesty about community services)
  - Vision and intent gets skewed and/or buried with bureaucratic structures and demands
  - We often do not do well walking through the challenges of implementation together

#### Lessons

#### Implementation

- Need more colleagues and allies in implementation and opportunities for people to share information
- Need more mentors
- Recognition of solid implementation that is based on SRV
- Most relevant and potent implementation on individual level-one on one with person, family, agency working together

### Questions

- What is a metaphor for the future with SRV?
- How can we walk together in a spirit of humility and passion?
- Who can we partner with to bring connection and growth?
- Will we be open to critique?
- What are we afraid of? Can we address these fears together?

### Questions

- "You reap what you sow" With the current structures and dynamics in place – what are we sowing? What are we reaping?
- How will we keep people who are devalued at the heart of what we do?



