



Youth in Peril

Something is Terribly Amiss in America

- Death – Suicide Skyrocketing
- Depression – No Hope
- Dropouts – 30%: No Future
- Destruction – Violence
- Drugs – 20% Addiction
- Despair – the “dream is dying”



The Problem is Epidemic and Unprecedented in our History



Teenage suicide in United States

Second leading
cause of death
for those aged 15 to 34

Among students in grades 9-12 in the U.S. during 2013:

- 17.0% of students seriously considered attempting suicide in the previous 12 months (22.4% of females and 11.6% of males).
- 13.6% of students made a plan about how they would attempt suicide in the previous 12 months (16.9% of females and 10.3% of males).
- 8.0% of students attempted suicide one or more times in the previous 12 months (10.6% of females and 5.4% of males).
- 2.7% of students made a suicide attempt that resulted in an injury, poisoning, or an overdose that required medical attention (3.6% of females and 1.8% of males).

The Problem is Epidemic and Unprecedented in our History



**Only 7 in 10
ninth-graders
complete high
school**

- Child is kicked out or drops out of high school every 26 seconds
- 47% said they dropped out because they were bored, classes were not interesting/irrelevant (aimless, purposeless)
- Nearly 7 in 10 respondents (69 percent) said they were not motivated or inspired to work hard
- Low income students are 5 times more likely to drop out
- Nearly one half Blacks, Hispanics, Native American fail to graduate
- High school dropouts are ineligible for 90% of jobs in the economy
- 9th grade is the critical year for determining the path to the future
- Almost three-fourths of Illinois prisoners have not completed high school; the dropout problem is one reason state prisons are bulging with 43 percent more inmates than they were designed to hold.
- More than one in five African-American dropouts is likely to be imprisoned
- States with high graduation rates historically have low incarceration rates, and states with many dropouts tend to have more of their residents in prison

The Problem is Epidemic and Unprecedented in our History



Drug Abuse is a Sign of Despair

- First time that drugs surpassed car accidents as one of the leading causes of death since the government first began tracking drug-related deaths in 1979.
- One in five teenagers had taken prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription.
20% of these adolescents are addicted.
- 90% of Americans who are currently addicted started smoking, drinking or using drugs before age 18. A quarter of those who begin using addictive substances at these early ages become addicted as adults, while only one in 25 who start using these substances after age 21 does.
- Harm that using substances such as tobacco, alcohol and marijuana can have on their child's cognitive development, affecting their ability to form proper judgments and mature emotionally.

The Problem is Epidemic and Unprecedented in our History



The American Dream & Hope for the Future is Dying

- American's youth are down on the future, with nearly half of those ages 18 through 29 believing the "American Dream" is more dead than alive, according to Harvard's Institute of Politics.
- Reflecting the sour mood of the overall electorate, 48 percent of those asked "For you personally, is the idea of the American Dream alive or dead?" responded "dead." Those who picked "alive" accounted for 49 percent.
- Fifty-eight percent of college graduates said the dream was alive for them personally, compared to 42 percent of those not in college or who had never enrolled in college.
- "It is disturbing that about half of the largest generation in America doesn't believe the American dream is there for them personally," said John Della Volpe, the institute's polling director. "That frustration, I think, is tied into a government they don't trust and they don't think is working for them."

The Problem is Epidemic and Unprecedented in our History



Narcissism is Rampant

A Generation is
becoming Numb

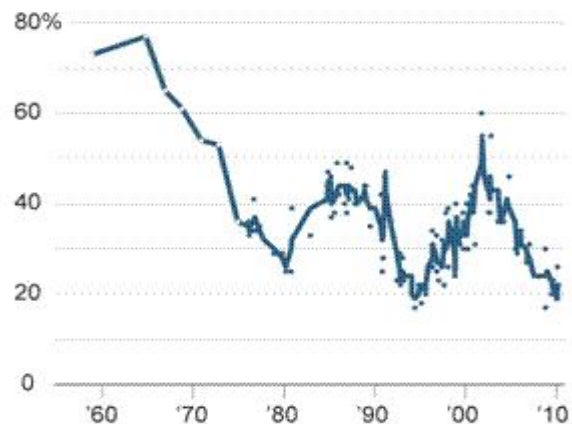
- Today's college students are not as empathetic as college students of the 1980s and '90s according to University of Michigan researchers collected from almost 14,000 college students over the last 30 years.
- "College kids today are about 40 percent lower in empathy than their counterparts of 20 or 30 years ago, as measured by standard tests of this personality trait."
- "Many people see the current group of college students — sometimes called 'Generation Me' — as one of the most self-centered, narcissistic, competitive, confident and individualistic in recent history," said Konrath, of University of Rochester Department of Psychiatry.
- "It's not surprising that this growing emphasis on the self is accompanied by a corresponding devaluation of others."

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Public Trust in Government: 1958-2010

Trust government just about always or most of the time



Trust in our Institutions has Crashed

- Public trust in the federal government in Washington is at one of its lowest levels in half a century.
- Just 22% of Americans say they trust the government to do what is right “just about always” (3%) or “most of the time” (19%).
- The current level of skepticism was matched previously only in the periods from 1992 to 1995 (reaching as low as 17% in the summer of 1994), and 1978 to 1980 (bottoming out at 25% in 1980).
- When the National Election Study first asked this question in 1958, 73% of Americans trusted the government to do what is right just about always or most of the time.



Can Something Be Done?

If not you, then who?

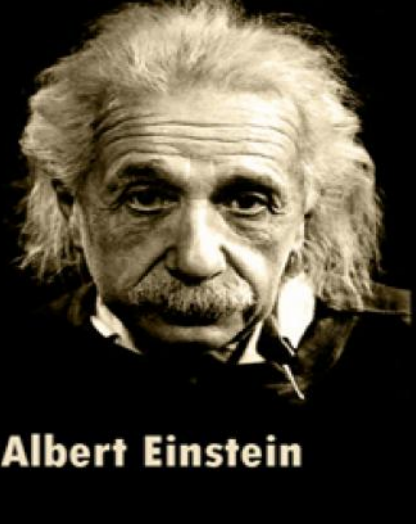
If not now, then when?

If not here, then where?





**Insanity: doing the same
thing over and over again
and expecting different results. ~Albert Einstein**



**We Must Solve the Problem
with a Higher Level of Thinking
Than that which Created the Problem**





Objective

Turn

*Tragedy Into Triumph,
Adversity Into Advantage,
Fear Into Fortitude, &
Calamity Into Courage*





BUILDING A BOLD NEW FUTURE

The Four Key Factors:

Mission & Purpose

Adversity Response

Life Long Learning & Leadership

Trust-Building



This Program is about starting to :

SET ONTO THE PATH OF YOUR HIGHEST PURPOSE

Mission & Purpose: Setting Your Personal Course of Destiny

Adversity Response: Turning Breakdowns into Breakthroughs

Learning to Lead your Life: Gaining Wisdom about Your World

Trust Building: Creating a World You Can Trust



Personal Leadership

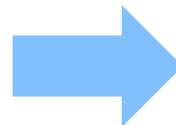
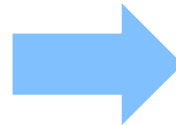
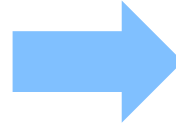
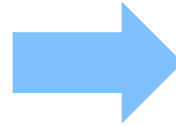
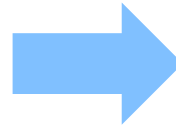
- Empowering Belief Systems
- Guiding Principles of Mission & Character
- Personal Discipline



Expectations

What NOT to Expect:

- Miracles
- Instant Success
- Psycho-Analysis
- Solution to All Your Problems
- Cures
- Lots of New “Friends”



What TO EXPECT

- Revelations
- Path to Success
- Understanding Human Behavior
- Guidance on Direction
- Wisdom
- A Few “True Friends”

MISSION: Finding Meaning, Purpose



Robert Ulich, Dean of the Harvard School of Education in the 1950s said in *“Crisis and Hope in American Education:”*

➤ ***If our schools fail to help a person discover his or her purpose [in life], they fail in almost everything that really matters.***

❖ **Making a Difference:**

Of all the factors that truly help create high-performance, well-grounded people, teams, and organizations, *being able to make a difference stands at the pinnacle* .

People want their lives to be meaningful, filled with learning, adventure, and fulfillment.

Two things tend to contribute to this more than anything else:

❖ **Personal Mission & Purpose:**

Being to articulate a vision, personal purpose, and value proposition that gives guidance, direction, meaning, and selection criteria to the choices in life.

❖ **Trust & Teamwork:**

Being dedicated to building a culture of trust, respect, and collaboration with others that continually improves and supports the way you relate to your world, your friends & family, your community, and the organization for whom you work



ADVERSITY: Responding to life's challenges

How to respond to life's challenges in a positive and powerful way to rise above the turmoil.

- ADVERSITY IS NORMAL, Adversity is a Glorious Opportunity

Example: Michael Jordan's "Flu Game"

- SOURCES OF POSITIVE ADVERSITY RESPONSES

Belief in the Power to Change Your Course of Fate

Example: Amy Purdy – Paraolympics & Dancing with the Stars

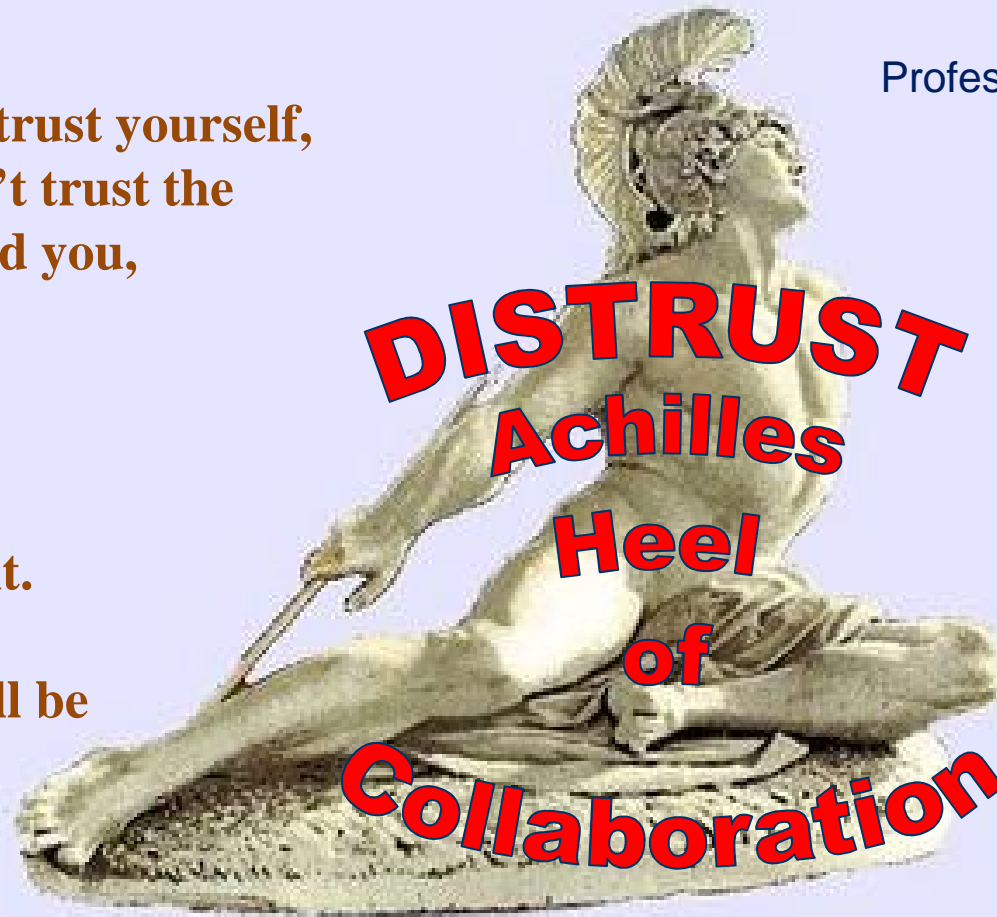
Overcoming Learned Helplessness

Trust determines the Course of History, the Destinies of Nations, and the Fate of People

-- Paul R. Lawrence,
Professor, Organization Behavior,
Harvard Business School

If you can't trust yourself,
and you can't trust the
world around you,
you will be
paranoid,
aggressive,
defensive,
and impotent.

All of life will be
a struggle.





Impact of Trust

on Personal Wellbeing

- 10% increase in Trust is
 - equivalent to a 30-40% increase in pay (in terms of a person's sense of well being)
 - Will reduce **Suicides** & traffic fatalities 10%
 - Impact on Health Care by stress reduction
- John Helliwell Economics Dept, University of British Columbia based on study of nearly 30,000 Canadians and Americans



➤ *Trust Determines the Fate of Communities and People*

- What would happen in a community that had Adults & Youth with:
- High levels of Trust?
 - Meaning & Purpose?