



Civic Engagement: Sustaining Our Democracy

Presented at

2010 Governor's Conference on Service

by

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&

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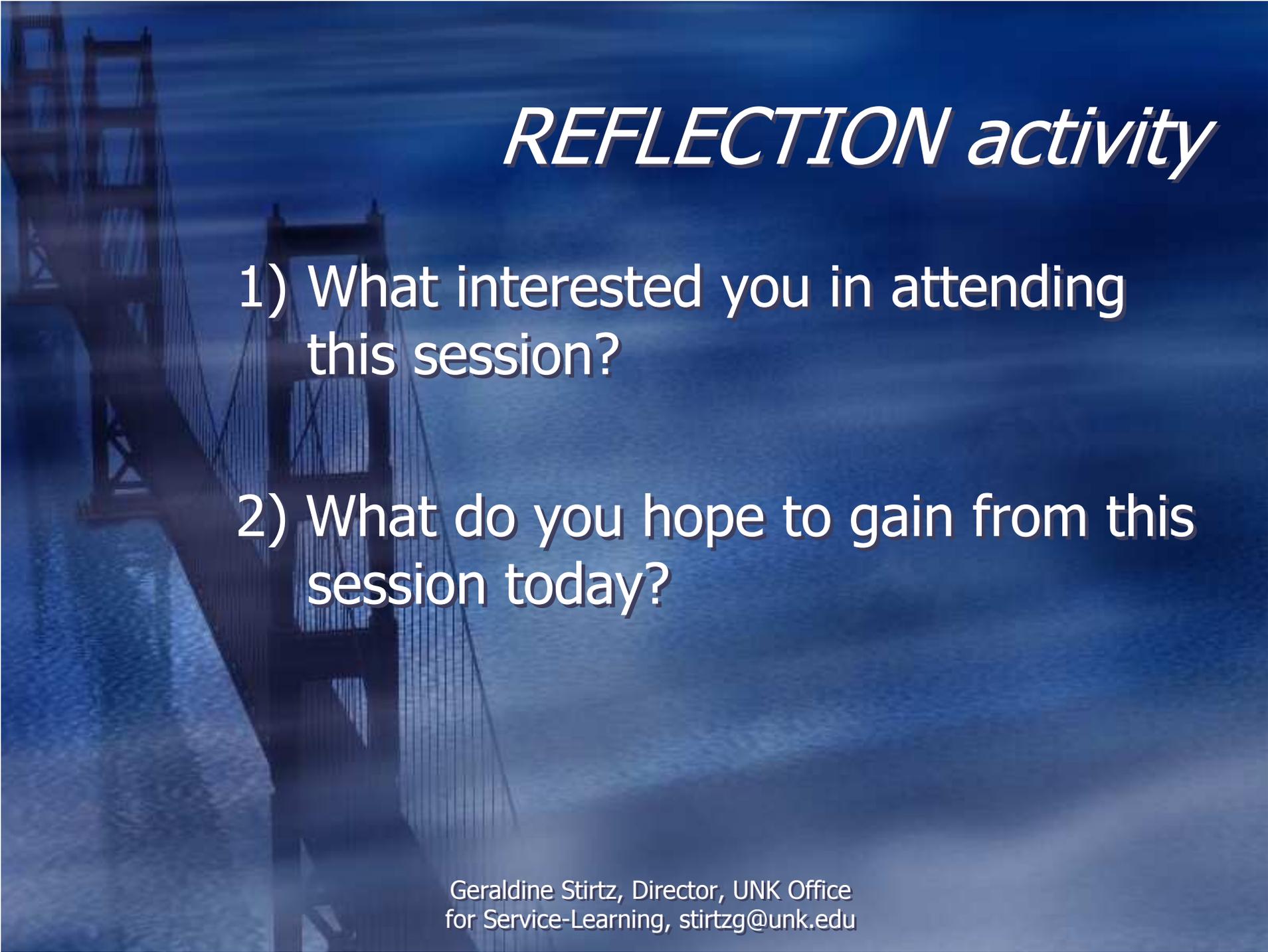
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Today's Overview

- ◆ Introductions
- ◆ Review history of service
- ◆ Reflect on meaning of service
- ◆ What is citizenship/civic engagement
- ◆ Discuss education in country
 - ◆ Ways of engagement/serving
 - ◆ Service-learning & examples

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REFLECTION activity

- 1) What interested you in attending this session?
- 2) What do you hope to gain from this session today?

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History of Service

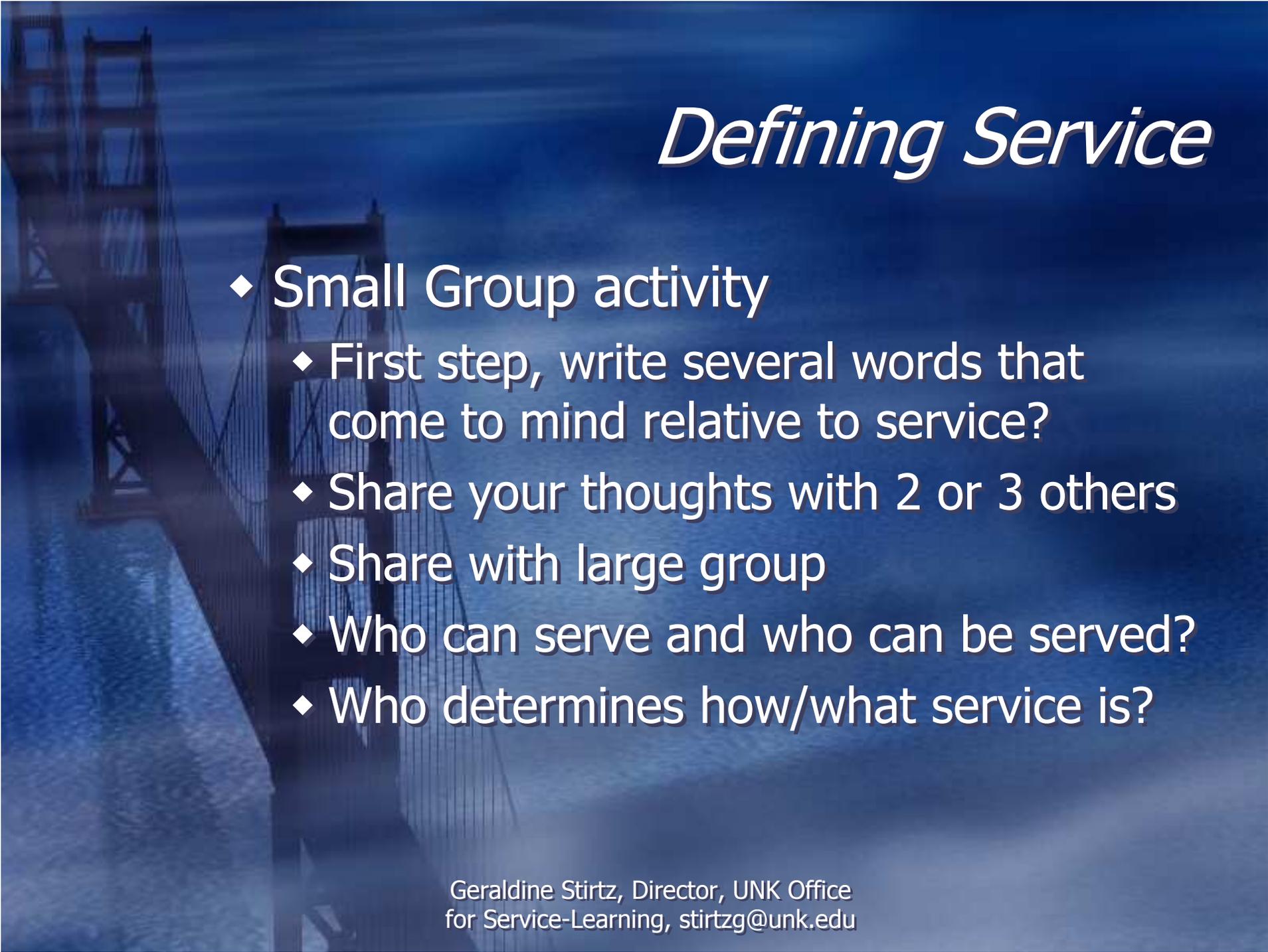
- ◆ Service – a vital force in American life
 - ◆ Country relied on dedication and action of citizens
 - ◆ Raising a neighbor's roof
 - ◆ Providing food for community members, caring for the sick & elderly
- ◆ 1930s – Civilian Conservation Corps - Roosevelt
- ◆ 1940s – GI Bill- World War II
 - ◆ educational opportunities
- ◆ 1961 – Peace Corps - Kennedy
- ◆ 1964 - "War on Poverty" - Johnson
 - ◆ VISTA – Volunteers in Service to America
 - ◆ National Teachers Corps

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History (continued)

- ◆ 1970 & 80s – Youth Programs
 - ◆ 1970 - Youth Conservation Corps
 - ◆ 1976 – California Conservation Corps
 - ◆ 1978 – Young Adult Conservation Corps
 - ◆ Created small corps in many of the states
- ◆ 1970s use of the term “service-learning” begins
- ◆ 1980s – strong service-learning programs begin to emerge
- ◆ 1990 – National & Community Service Act – Bush
 - ◆ Grants to schools to promote service-learning
- ◆ 1993 – National & Community Service Trust Act – Clinton
 - ◆ AmeriCorps begins in 1994

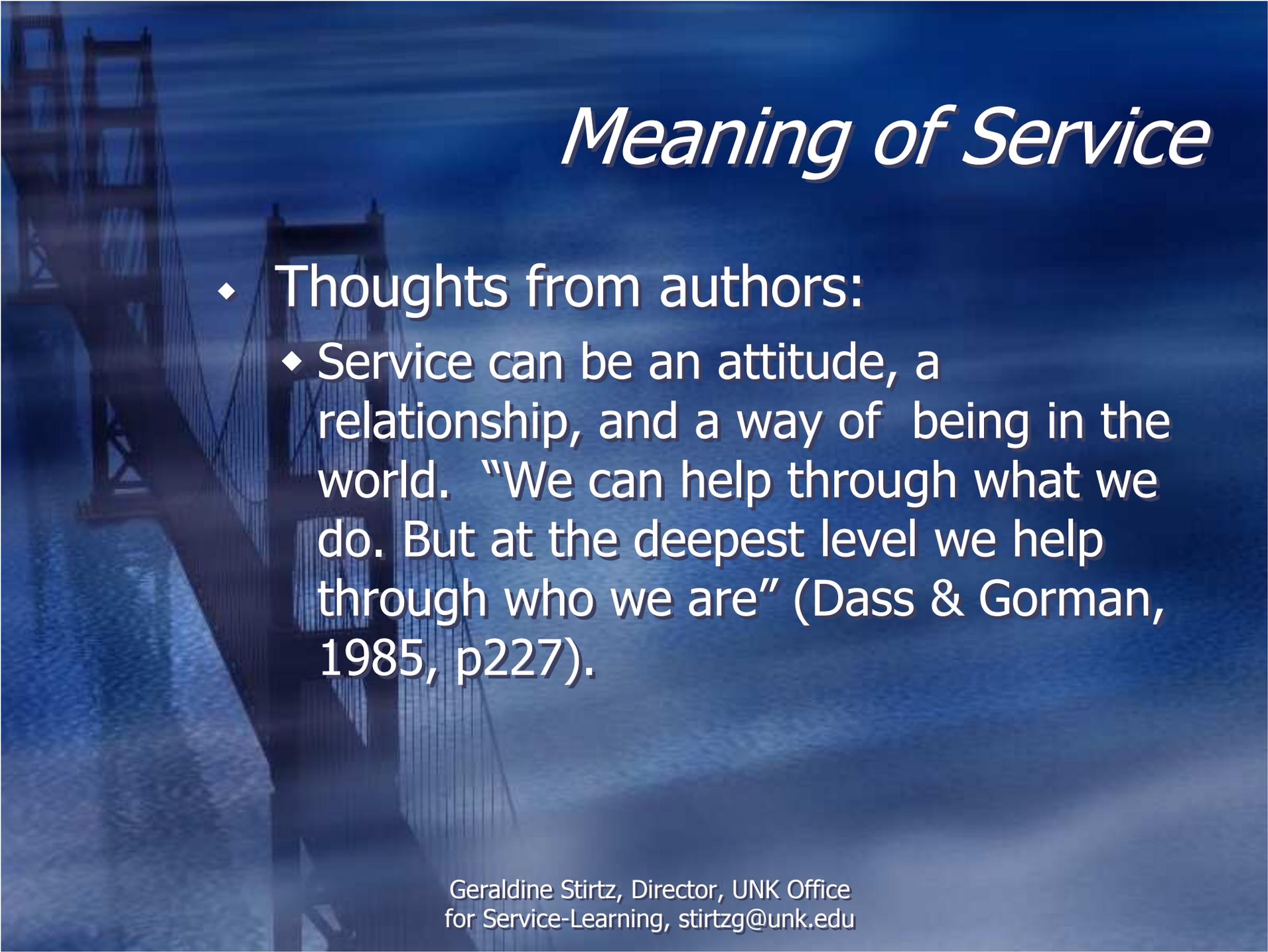
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Defining Service

- ◆ Small Group activity
 - ◆ First step, write several words that come to mind relative to service?
 - ◆ Share your thoughts with 2 or 3 others
 - ◆ Share with large group
 - ◆ Who can serve and who can be served?
 - ◆ Who determines how/what service is?

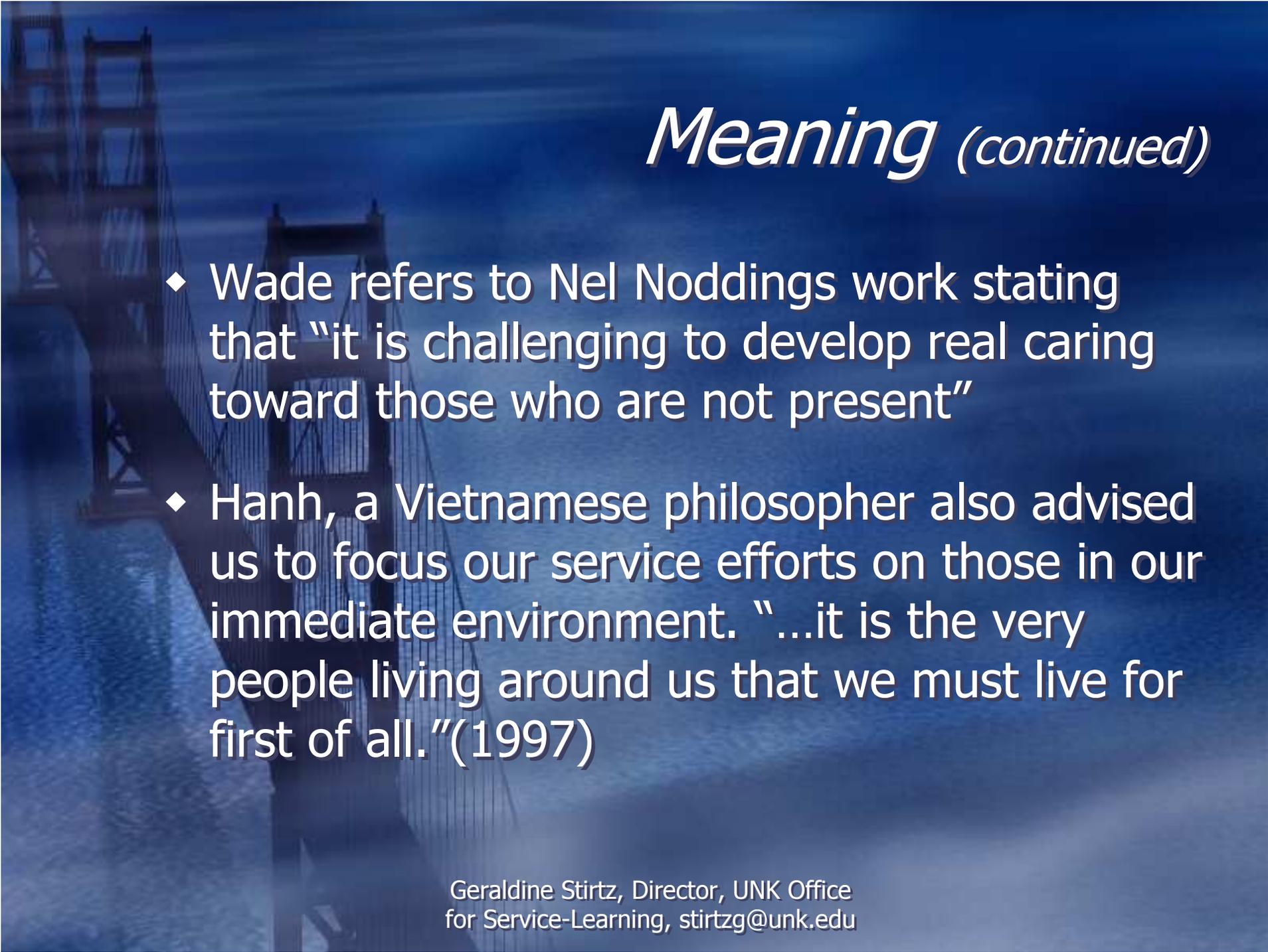
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Meaning of Service

- ◆ Thoughts from authors:
 - ◆ Service can be an attitude, a relationship, and a way of being in the world. “We can help through what we do. But at the deepest level we help through who we are” (Dass & Gorman, 1985, p227).

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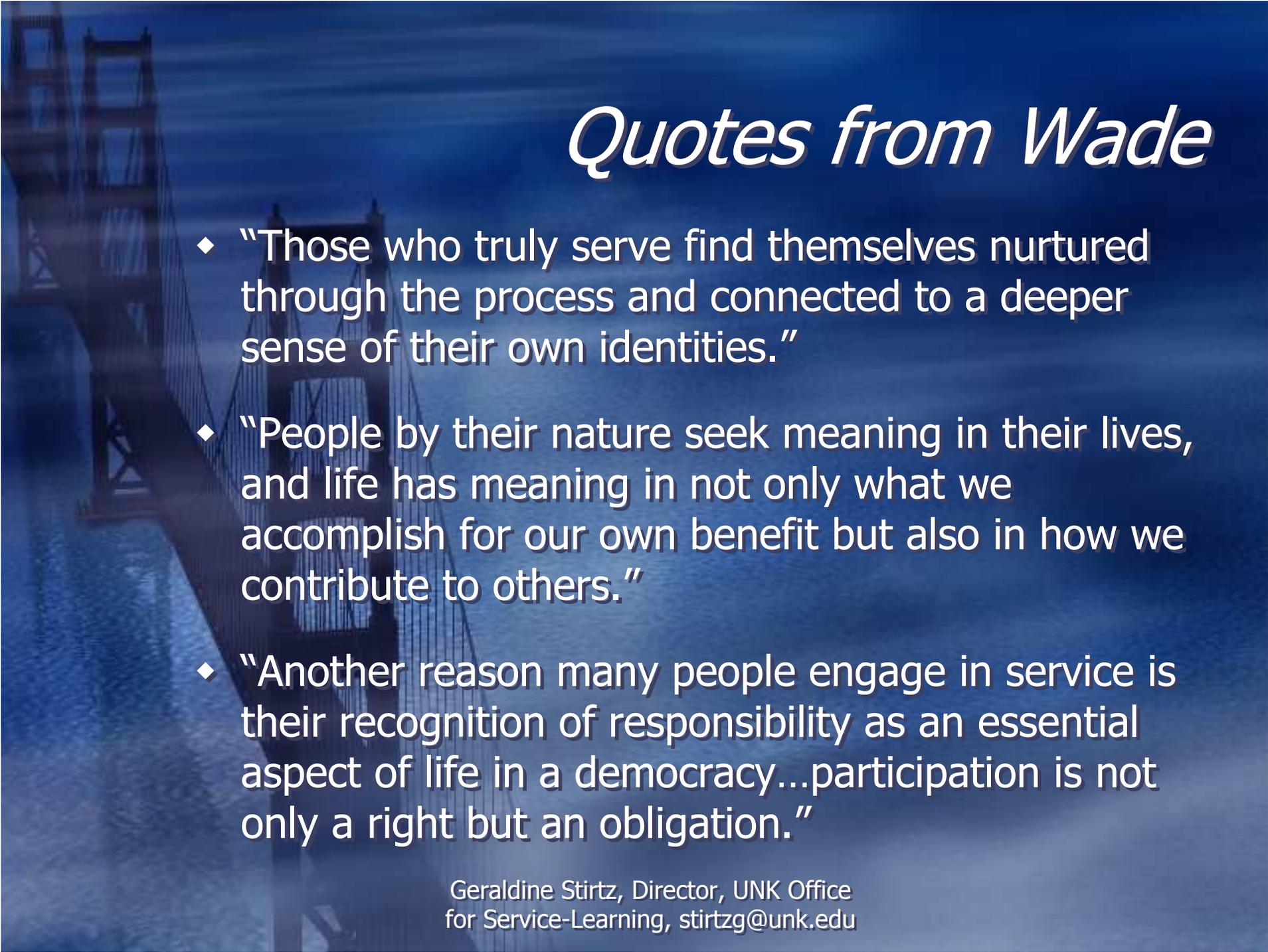
Meaning (continued)

- ◆ Wade refers to Nel Noddings work stating that “it is challenging to develop real caring toward those who are not present”
- ◆ Hanh, a Vietnamese philosopher also advised us to focus our service efforts on those in our immediate environment. “...it is the very people living around us that we must live for first of all.”(1997)

Why Serve?

- ◆ Service is encouraged by the **Corporation for National and Community Service & ServeNebraska** through programs and funds
 - ◆ Our democracy is experiencing many changes
 - ◆ **AmeriCorps** provides many opportunities
 - ◆ Educational institutions are encouraging service
 - ◆ Employers are seeking employees with service experiences because...
 - ◆ Service... engages people in the lives of others
 - ◆ ...helps in building relationships
 - ◆ ...strengthens communities
 - ◆ ...promotes life-long civic engagement
 - ◆ once involved, individuals stay involved

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Quotes from Wade

- ◆ “Those who truly serve find themselves nurtured through the process and connected to a deeper sense of their own identities.”
- ◆ “People by their nature seek meaning in their lives, and life has meaning in not only what we accomplish for our own benefit but also in how we contribute to others.”
- ◆ “Another reason many people engage in service is their recognition of responsibility as an essential aspect of life in a democracy...participation is not only a right but an obligation.”

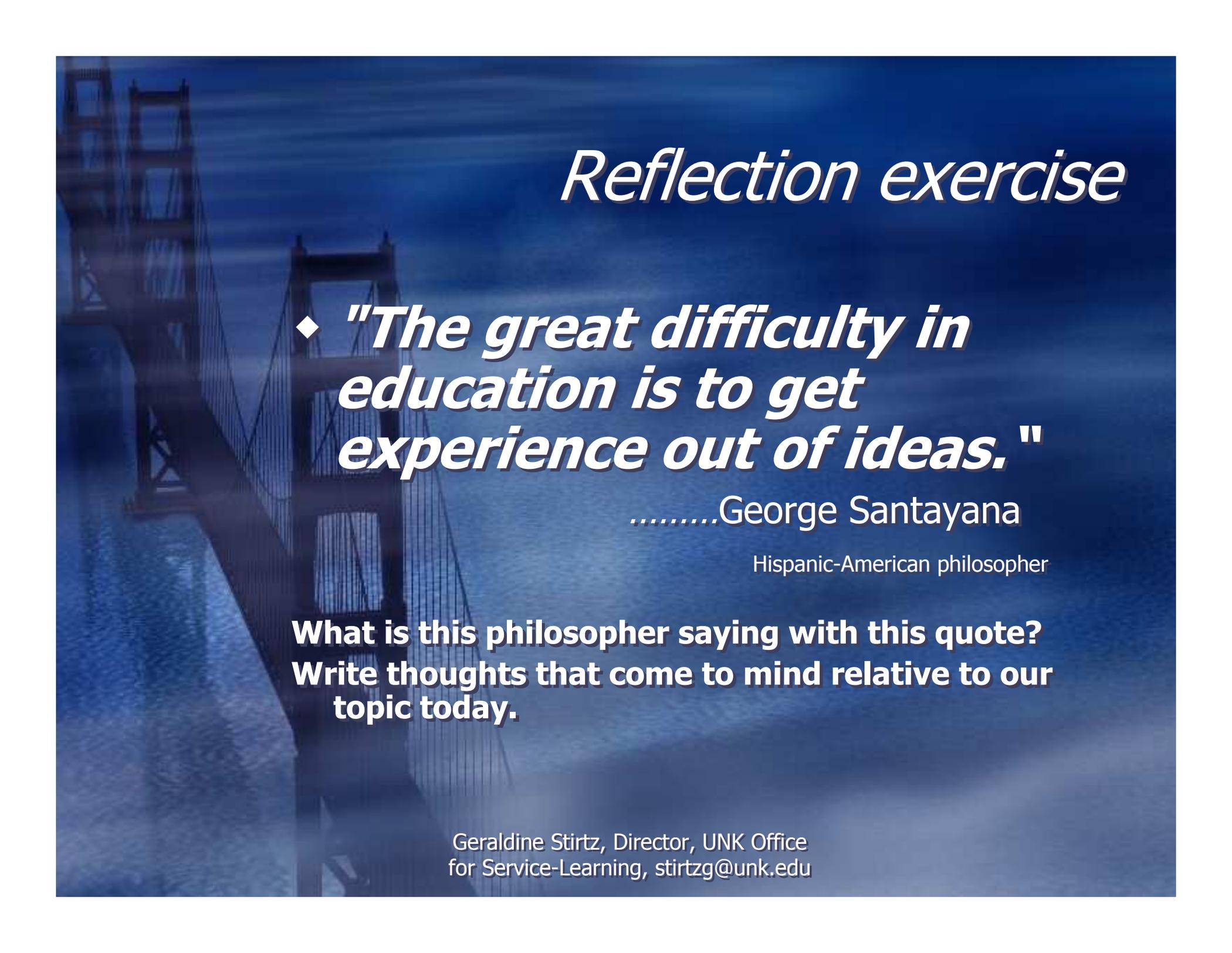
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***What needs to change?
How will others become engaged?***

- ◆ Many schools requiring community service hours
- ◆ Community organizations are seeking volunteers to carry out their service to help others
- ◆ Educational institutions are implementing service-learning as a teaching strategy

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Reflection exercise

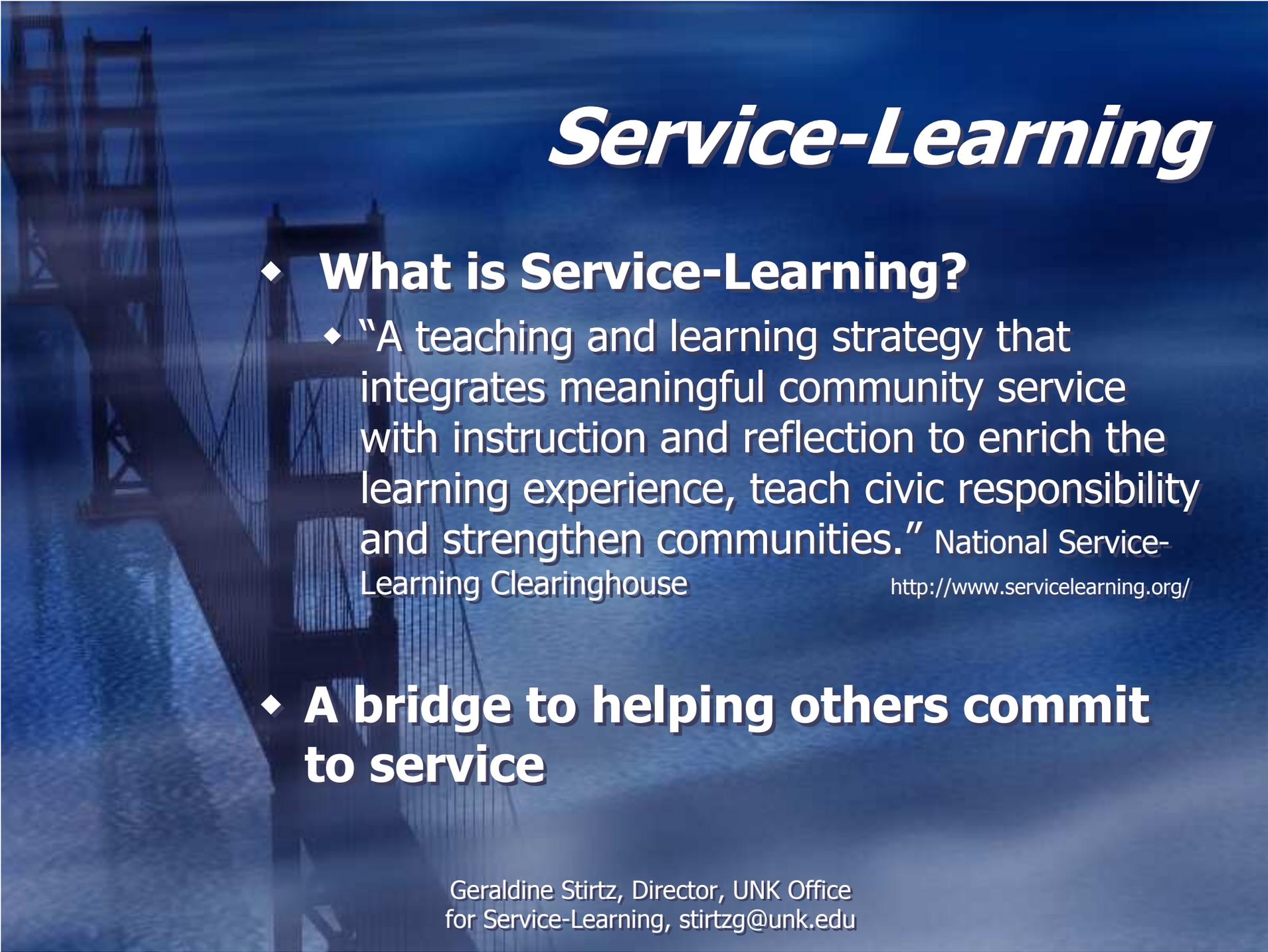
- ◆ ***"The great difficulty in education is to get experience out of ideas."***

.....George Santayana

Hispanic-American philosopher

**What is this philosopher saying with this quote?
Write thoughts that come to mind relative to our
topic today.**

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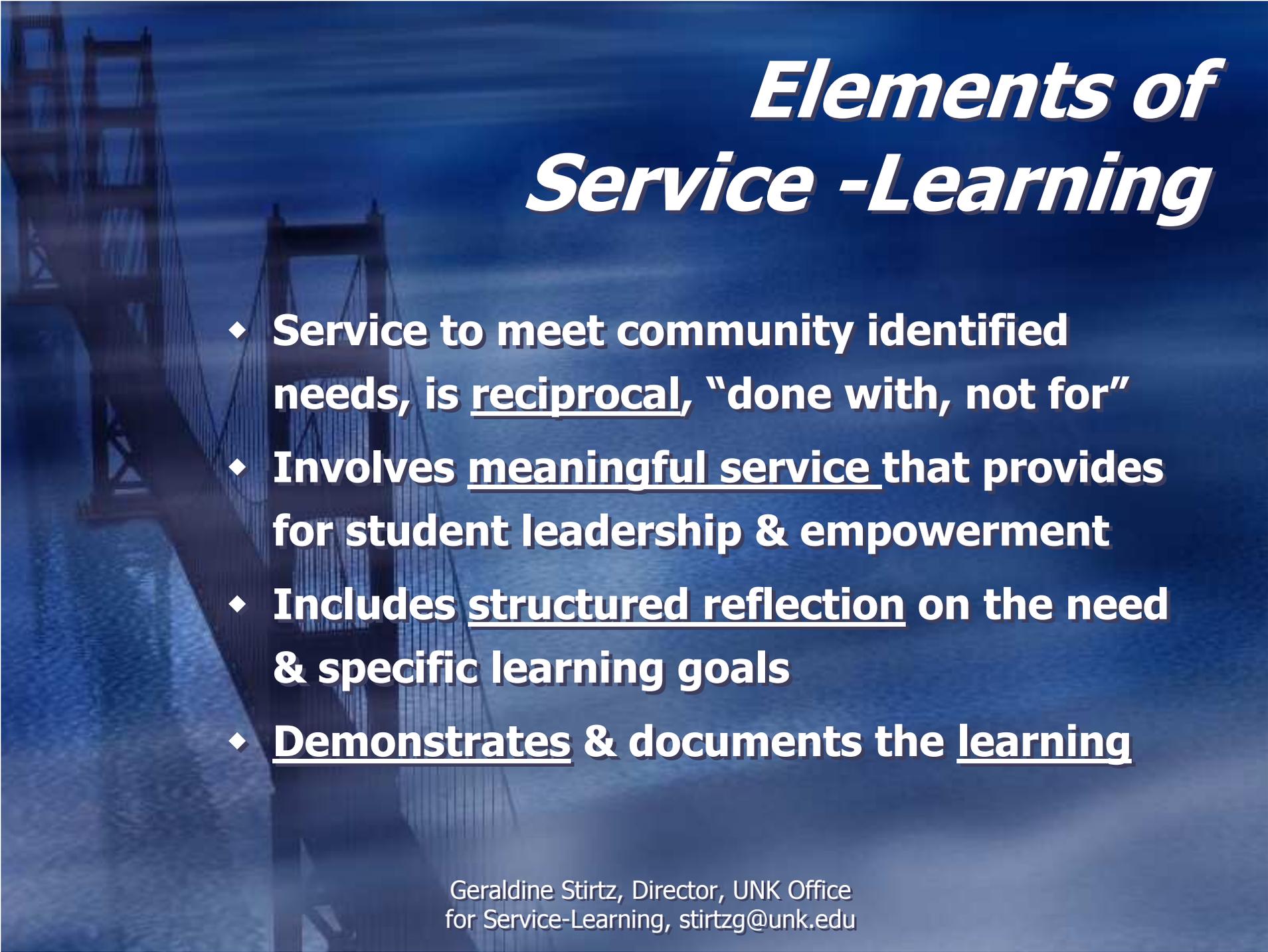
Service-Learning

- ◆ **What is Service-Learning?**

- ◆ "A teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities." National Service-Learning Clearinghouse
<http://www.servicelearning.org/>

- ◆ **A bridge to helping others commit to service**

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Elements of Service -Learning

- ◆ Service to meet community identified needs, is reciprocal, “done with, not for”
- ◆ Involves meaningful service that provides for student leadership & empowerment
- ◆ Includes structured reflection on the need & specific learning goals
- ◆ Demonstrates & documents the learning

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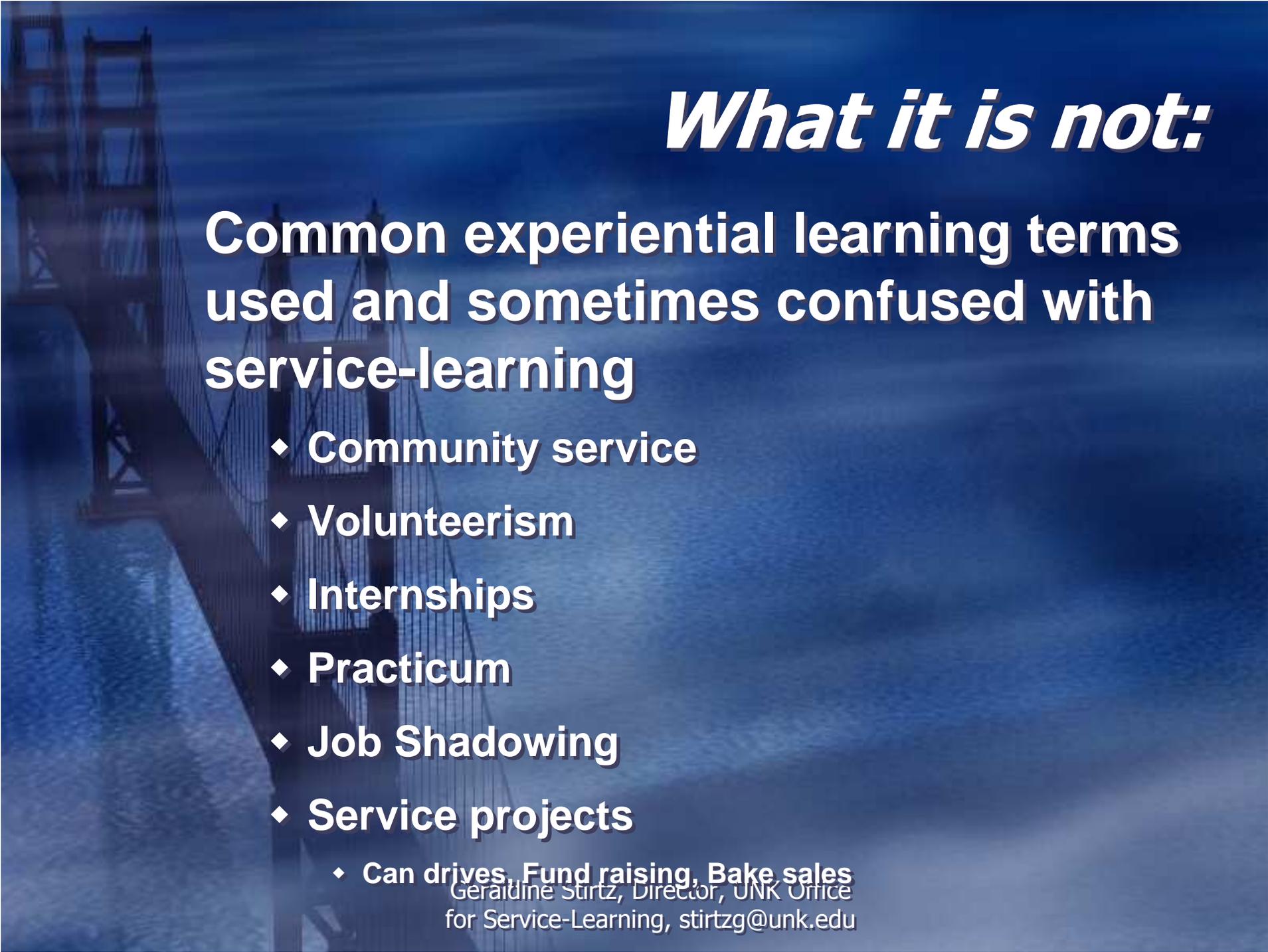
Defining Service-Learning

Research study results...

Integrates service in the community with academic studies or organizational learning goals, to ...

- ◆ **Enrich and enhance student's learning**
- ◆ **Meet real community needs**
- ◆ **Strengthen and support communities**
- ◆ **Teach civic responsibility**

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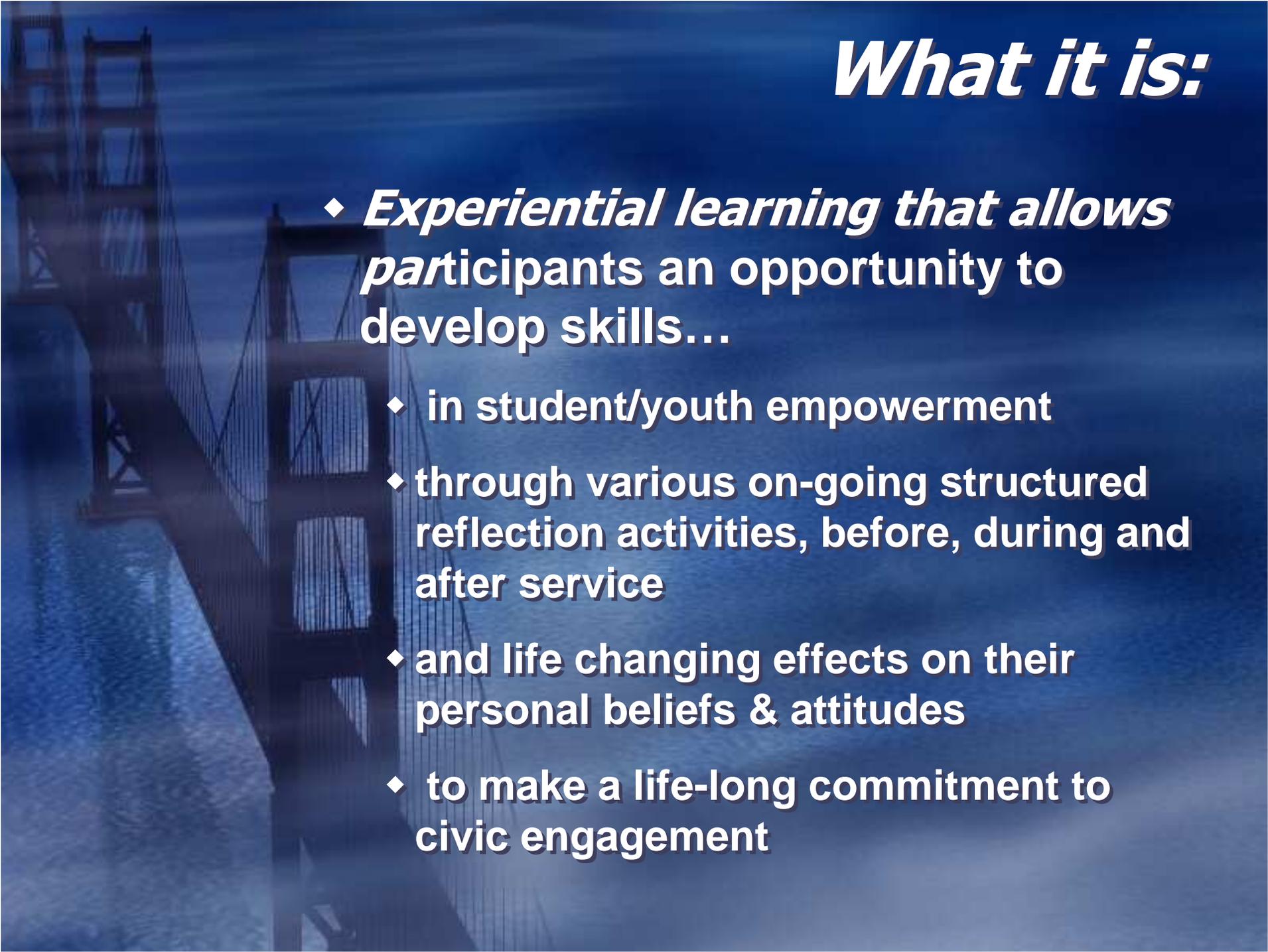


What it is not:

Common experiential learning terms used and sometimes confused with service-learning

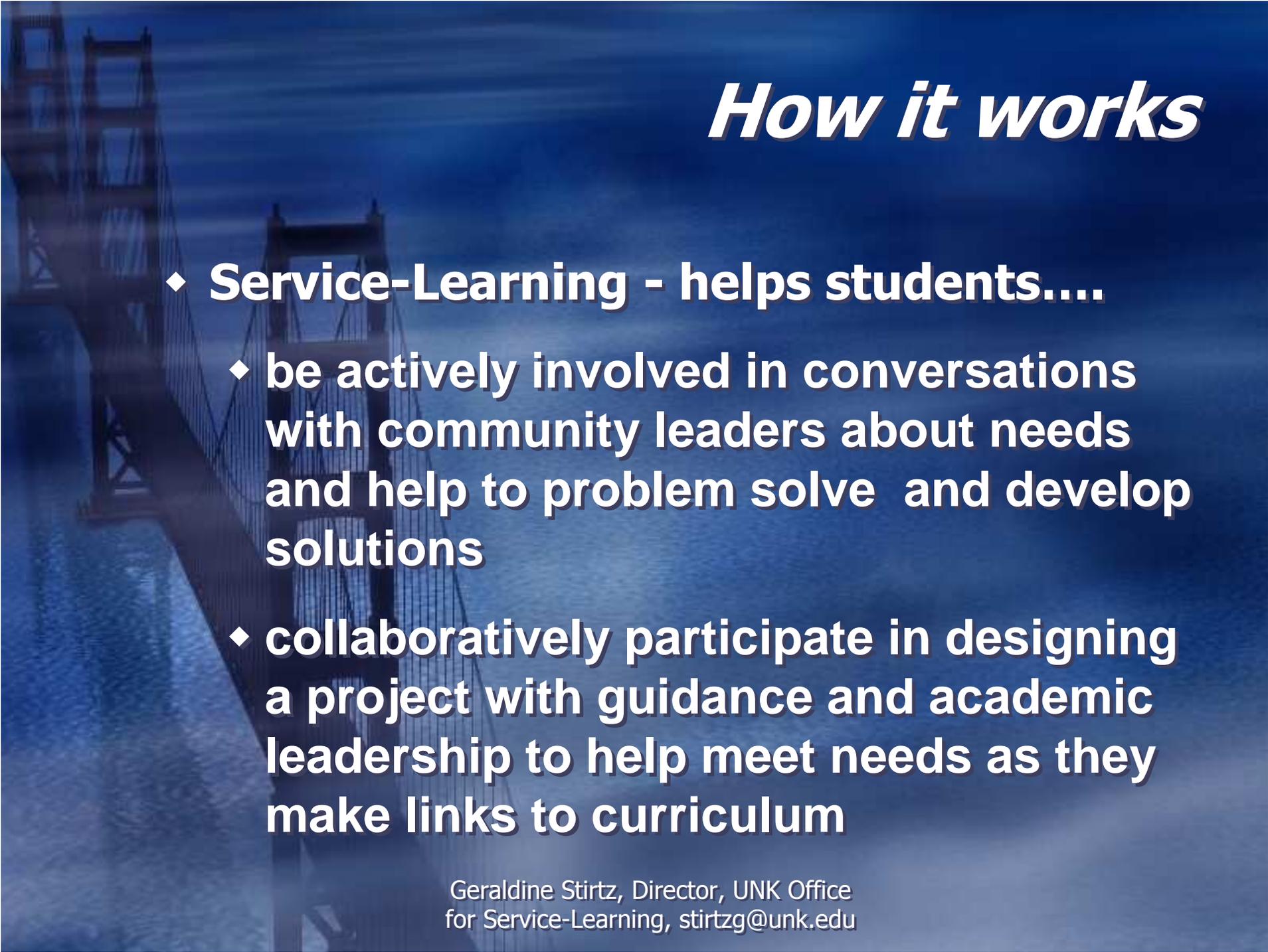
- ◆ **Community service**
- ◆ **Volunteerism**
- ◆ **Internships**
- ◆ **Practicum**
- ◆ **Job Shadowing**
- ◆ **Service projects**
 - ◆ **Can drives, Fund raising, Bake sales**

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What it is:

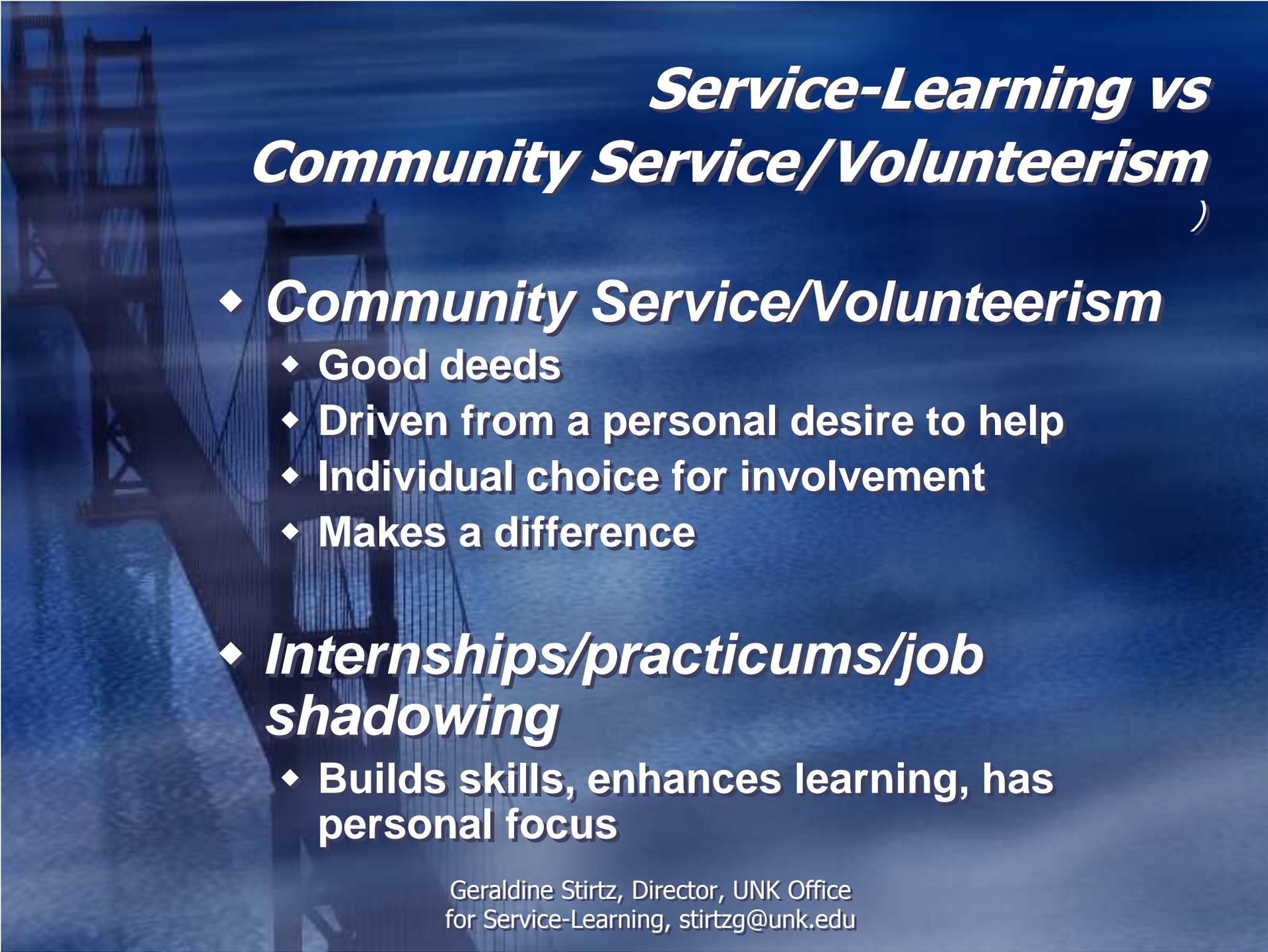
- ◆ ***Experiential learning that allows participants an opportunity to develop skills...***
 - ◆ **in student/youth empowerment**
 - ◆ **through various on-going structured reflection activities, before, during and after service**
 - ◆ **and life changing effects on their personal beliefs & attitudes**
 - ◆ **to make a life-long commitment to civic engagement**



How it works

- ◆ **Service-Learning - helps students....**
 - ◆ **be actively involved in conversations with community leaders about needs and help to problem solve and develop solutions**
 - ◆ **collaboratively participate in designing a project with guidance and academic leadership to help meet needs as they make links to curriculum**

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Service-Learning vs Community Service/Volunteerism

◆ ***Community Service/Volunteerism***

- ◆ **Good deeds**
- ◆ **Driven from a personal desire to help**
- ◆ **Individual choice for involvement**
- ◆ **Makes a difference**

◆ ***Internships/practicums/job shadowing***

- ◆ **Builds skills, enhances learning, has personal focus**

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Service-Learning vs Community Service/Volunteerism

(continued)

- ◆ ***Service-Learning...***
 - ◆ **Is designed to meet a community-identified need**
 - ◆ **involves collaboration with community partners to problem solve and develop a project to meet the need**
 - ◆ **Includes reflection activities to study causes of community need as well as application of specific learning goals**

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Considerations & Challenges:

- ◆ ***Developing and working with partnerships in nonprofit world requires collaboration and consideration regarding...***
- ◆ **Community member's desire to help educate the next generation on service to others**
- ◆ **Agencies/programs driven by strategic plans; constrained by tight budgets**
- ◆ **Limited and overworked staff**
- ◆ **Involvement in collaborative planning**



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Service-Learning in a Democracy

UNK College of Education

Course Title: “Teaching in a Democratic Society”

Teacher Education – Service-Learning Requirement

“National Network for Educational Renewal”

**John Goodlad’s Four Moral Dimensions for
Educational Renewal**

◆ Access to knowledge

All can learn

◆ Nurturing pedagogy

Caring and nurturing relationships

◆ Enculturation of youth in democratic society

Role and responsibility as a citizen

◆ Stewardship

Share in support of communities/schools/others in need

Examples:



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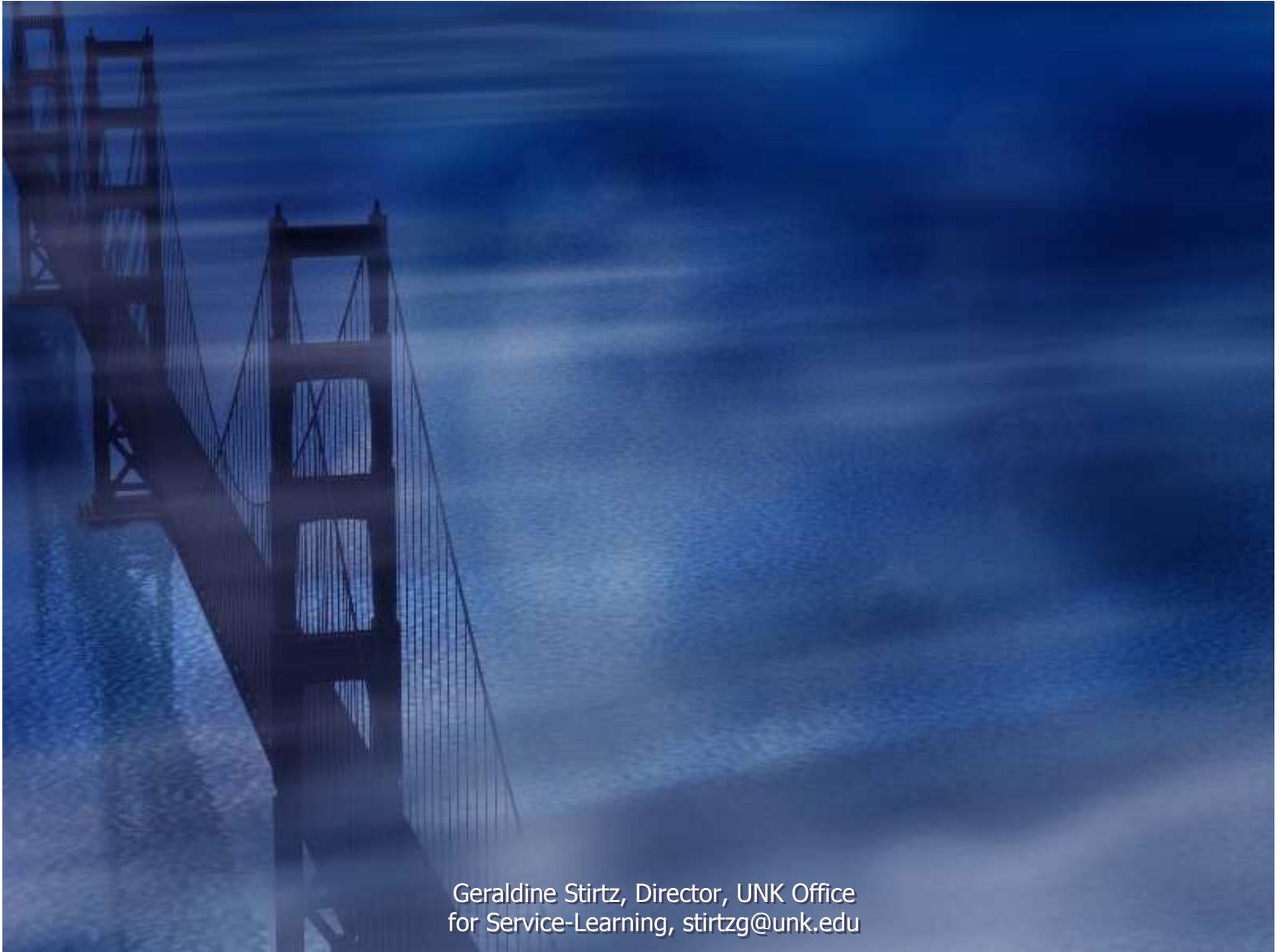
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