

Dear Senior Fellows and Friends,

On January 24th, we will consider a subject that is of the utmost importance to mission accomplishment in government, as it impacts both operations and public perception. The ability to manage oneself, and to create conditions that are conducive to one's own happiness, has implications for performance, employee engagement and retention, and the selection and development of leaders who truly are geared to supervise others – as well as citizen satisfaction with government.

Fittingly, Holly Anderson, Department of Education, will lead the discussion. Holly has epitomized unusual creativity, diligence, and excellence in her work, much of which does not appear on her LinkedIn profile. For example, early in the decade, Holly played a leading role in the college student aid community's co-development, with Federal Student Aid, of a groundbreaking data registry that helped streamline student loan processing. Subsequently, she was voted onto the Postsecondary Education Standards Council Board of Directors, where she served with distinction. Last month, Holly accepted a new assignment as Policy Liaison for People with Disabilities, Office of the Under Secretary. Here's her description of the evening:

Do you know what you're really good at? Can you convey what you're good at succinctly and articulately? Do you have a job that allows you to work your strengths? Does it make you happy? Do you know what makes you happy -- really happy? Do you practice making yourself happy? Do you know how? Holly Anderson, unable to answer these questions for herself, began a journey of discovery. Come to a lively discussion where she shares highlights from her story, research results, process steps, and titles from her reference library. In addition, she will motivate and encourage you to start 2011 developing your own happiness journey. The results just might surprise you...

This invitation is non-transferable so that a proper welcome can be prepared for each participant. If a colleague would like to be invited, please ask him or her to contact me.

We'll convene in Vie de France's meeting room, right rear off the center atrium in the Graduate School building. There will be one dinner tab per table - please bring small bills, and contribute \$5 toward room rent as you pick up your nametag. The room will open at 5:30 p.m. and order-taking will begin at 6:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Kitty Wooley
U.S. Department of Education