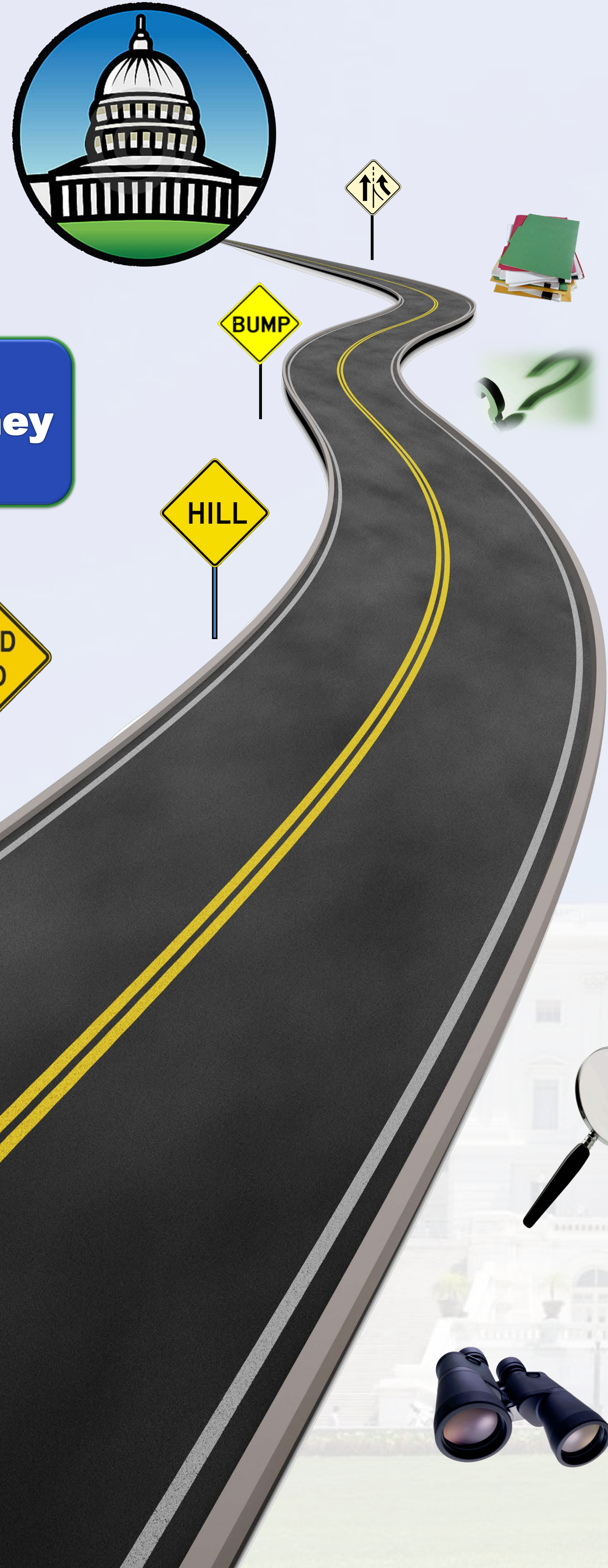




Leadership and the Importance of Relationships, Values, Emotion, & Framing

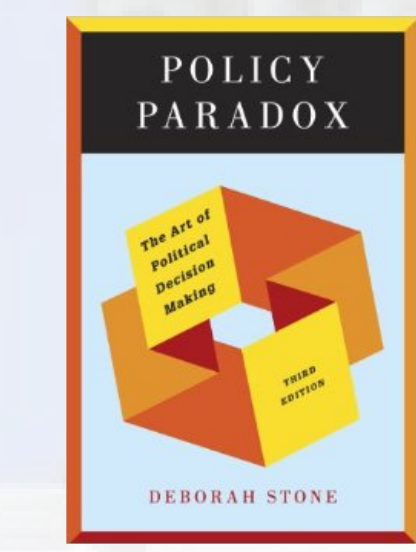
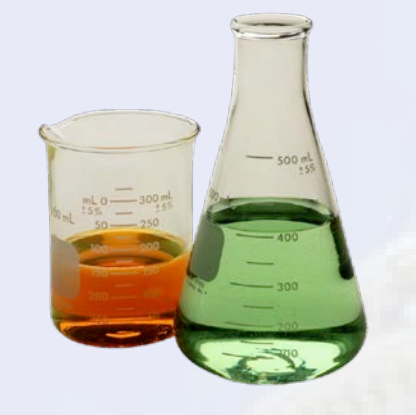
Jennifer Bertrand, B.S.
NH LEND Family Fellow

The Journey



Background

This leadership placement was through the Institute on Disability (IOD) at UNH under the direction of Charles Drum, MPA, JD, PhD. The IOD is a leader in the field of disability working toward a future where people of all abilities are fully engaged community members in all areas of life through advancing policy and systems change, education, and research. Like LEND the IOD is improving the lives of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families by increasing leadership capacity and coordination across systems in NH and beyond.

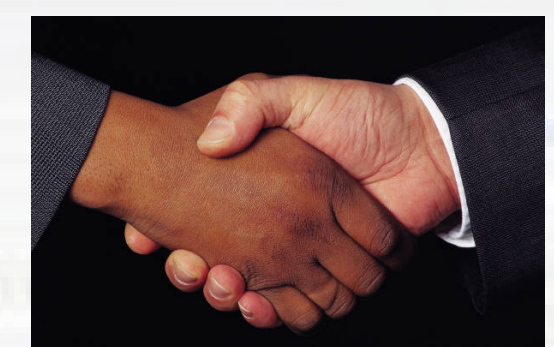


Description

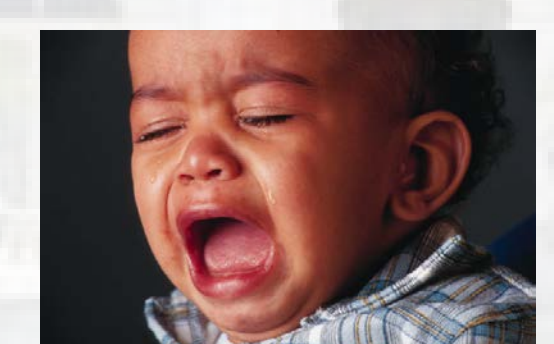
The over arching goal of the leadership in action placement was to assure more effective public policy advocacy. Through mentorship and a series of research activities relative to persuasion, the cognitive and social science understanding of decision-making, and models of policy analysis this learning experience resulted in operationalizing effective strategies to improve public policy communications and outcomes.



Conclusions



Trusted relationships are indispensable in our efforts to shape policy and affect change.



Reason and rationality play a limited role in the political decision-making process.



Strategically framing issues influences our judgments and decision-making.

Leadership



Research activities are a valuable learning process to enhance leadership skills while fueling passion.



Leadership is all about credibility and building meaningful relationships with people.



Utilizing more effective communication techniques leads to better understanding and engagement.