

Lehigh ADVANCE LU-WISE Kick-Off 2013-2014 “Outside the Box”

Dear Friends:

Welcome to a new academic year full of excitement, challenges, and most of all, potential. Lehigh ADVANCE is pleased to invite you to tap your creative potential at a kick-off party “**Outside the Box**” for STEM faculty on **Wednesday August 21, 2013 from 2-4 pm.**



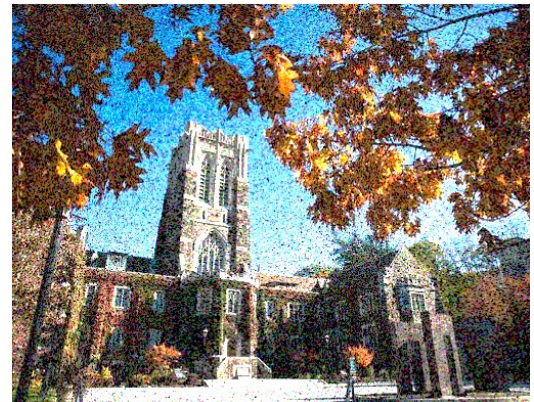
The event will take place at Roey’s Paintbox Parties, 453 Main St., Lower Level, Bethlehem, PA, 18018.

- *Do you wish to get to know colleagues in a low-pressure setting?
- *Do you like trying new things?
- *Do you admire people who can paint?

This event is for you! Refreshments and supplies provided.

RSVP by August 16th with this link: <http://www.doodle.com/vhwdbypytcn8yydu>

Get imaginative, possibly leave your comfort zone, and explore problem solving through art in a relaxed atmosphere of new and current faculty in STEM. Don’t worry if you’ve never painted before! This activity is fun and rewarding no matter how many times you’ve picked up a paintbrush. With step-by-step instruction by owner-artist Roey Ebert, everyone will leave with inspiration and an original 16” x 20” painting to display proudly.



You are a scientist or engineer by training, using your analytical and leadership skills to tackle technical research questions on a regular basis. Throughout the afternoon, flex your creative muscle - then we’ll talk about how this benefits your scholarly activities.

LU-WISE is Lehigh’s Women in Science and Engineering group of faculty meeting regularly throughout the semester for collegiality and professional development. This activity is sponsored by Lehigh ADVANCE.



On Leadership and Problem Solving

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/barbaraarmstrong/2012/10/24/painting-and-problem-solving-four-lessons-from-my-fall-retreat/>

4 Ways to Brush Up Your Problem-Solving Skills

by **Barbara T. Armstrong**, Forbes Contributor:

April 24, 2012

Earlier this month I escaped the office for a weeklong painting retreat in the woods of Door County, Wisconsin. While working amidst the awe-inspiring fall colors, it occurred to me that the dynamics of painting and problem solving have a lot in common. I returned home not only with newly polished painting skills but also a fresh perspective on managing problems at work, whether in my role as a designer, team leader, or firm principal.

As a leader at your company, you may need to adjust your own attitude on approaching problems. I learned four lessons while painting that might help:

- 1. How you see things depends on your line of sight.** When painting a landscape, countless choices are yours. For starters, you can choose where to place the horizon and what you eliminate from the actual setting. If the existing landscape is cluttered, for instance, you can exclude elements that detract from your focal point. Likewise, in problem solving, getting caught up in the clutter diminishes your ability to reach your desired result. Choose instead to focus on the bigger picture.
- 2. People can see the same landscape and represent it in totally different ways.** One day I sat with two other painters in a microclimate with magnificent sugar maples. Much to my surprise, our final paintings were totally different. A similar phenomenon occurs in problem solving: Any number of people can arrive at the same situation with different ideas, skills, or resources. They can also have different designs on the end result. In this way, respecting where others are coming from is critical to problem solving. One tool we use at our company is the [Myers-Briggs Type Indicator](#) (MBTI), a framework for understanding different personality types and preferences. I find MBTI to be especially helpful in considering how my colleagues seek to solve problems.
- 3. When light is shined on a subject, you can explore what lies in the shadows.** It can be harder to paint landscapes on cloudy days. The various forms and contrasts are less clear, and it's difficult to explore what lies in the shadows. When the sun is shining, however, the distinctions between objects are clearly visible and what lies in the shadows is revealed. The same goes for problem solving: When you shine a light on an issue, you see everything more clearly, including what opportunities or threats exist in the shadows.
- 4. Collaborating with people at different levels can foster appreciation for diverse ideas and perspectives.** At the retreat there were painters at every level, from first-timers to fine artists. I learned something from each one, particularly when our group came in from the woods and worked together in the studio. I opened myself up to others' unique observations and feedback, and ultimately felt more energized and creative. Additionally, I was struck by our instructor's capacity to calibrate her critiques to our individual skill levels. Similarly, in problem solving, it's important to meet others where they are, not where you might want them to be. Know where your colleagues or reports are starting from and adjust your responses accordingly. You will support rather than stifle people's efforts.

Odds are there is a business or leadership problem on your desk today. How might even one of these four lessons help you brush up *your* problem-solving skills?