Social Justice and STEM

Examining Professional Ethics

Karen Merritt, PhD MPH

Ethics in Engineering: Start with our Goal **NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers**

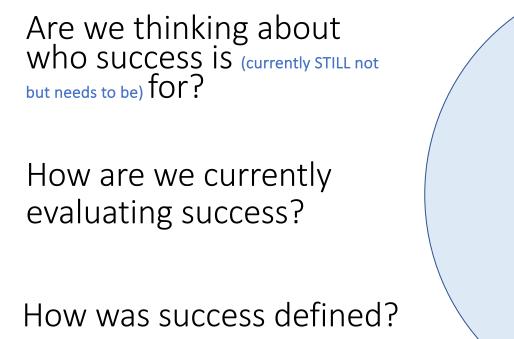
Preamble

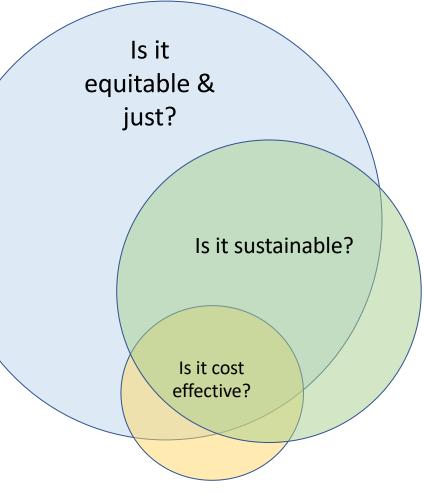
Engineering is an important and learned profession. As members of this profession, engineers are expected to exhibit the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Engineering has a direct and vital impact on the quality of life for all people. Accordingly, the services provided by engineers require honesty, impartiality, fairness, and equity, and must be dedicated to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. Engineers must perform under a standard of professional behavior that requires adherence to the highest principles of ethical conduct.

I. Fundamental Canons

Engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall:

1. Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.





This is about expanding our understanding of our decision criteria – what does the result of this expansion look like in our choices?

How do we think about the context for how we define *success*? Where is the current state of *practice* in our fields w.r.t.:

- Is it cost effective?
- Is it sustainable?
- Is it equitable and just?

Can we actually get to equitable & just from cost effective? How about from sustainable? Don't we instead have to <u>start</u> from equitable & just?

