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Student Pathways in
Higher Education Conference

Conférence sur le parcours
des étudiants dans
l'enseignement supérieur

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Charles E. Pascal

A Few Lessons Learned

- Catch people and organizations doing things right;
- Do fewer things better rather than all things less well

Lessons (continued)

- Overcome hardening of the categories
- Deal with short-termism
- Improvement is the enemy of real change

Lessons (continued)

- Embrace visionary “incrementalism”
- The power of the “demo”
- The loveliness of “draft”

Lessons (continued)

- Feedback is the breakfast of champions
- Lead through relationships
- The process is the product

Lessons (continued)

- Follow the lead of those who can handle the risk
- Clearly define partnerships

Lessons (continued)

- *What* is more important than *who* is right
- Quality trumps speed...but don't take too long
- The importance of evidence-based story-telling

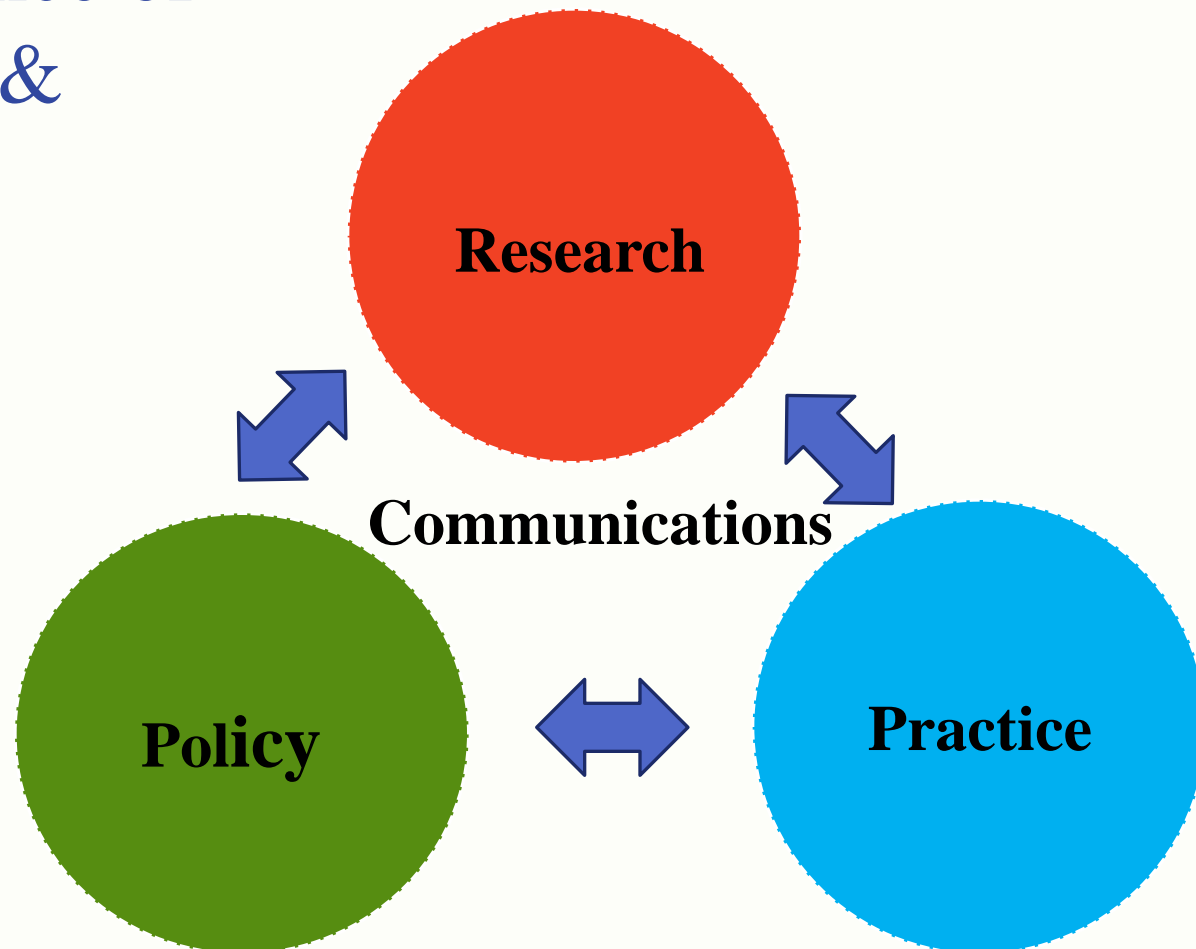
Lessons (continued)

- The easily measured usually isn't worth measuring
- Removing the “and” in Social and Economic
- Don't leave your biases in the cloak room

Lessons (continued)

- Avoid distraction, eschew the unimportant
- The important distinction between risk and danger

The wonderful dance of research, practice & policy



“ I don't give a fig for simplicity this side of complexity but I would give the earth for simplicity on the other side of complexity.”

Einstein

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questions.....or comments.....