**From CCT 688 Reflective Practice:**

*One of the themes of the presenters in this week's program open house was the development of one's personal enterprise - acknowledging a personal strength/interest/need and moving it from a personal endeavor to one that has the potential to reach new audiences or spread further to clients/students/family/communities. When you think about the process of making this happen, what comes to mind? Consider any kinds of interests/passions/ideas that lived only in your mind for some length of time first, but such that after some time passed (maybe even years), you realized that the idea was important not only to you but also potentially important to others, and you became ready to take action to bring the idea to life more concretely and engage others along with you. What do you think caused you to take the leap between the idea and the implementation?*

**This is my answer:**

The best way to implement an idea is to give up. Giving up is separation, it is not seeing the idea as you or you as just your idea. The idea is part of you, almost like a child, but it is not all your worth and it is not in control. If you discover your idea has been done by others, giving up ego means that you can still do the idea since no one can do it exactly like you, but it may also mean giving up the need for accolades or pay.

You must also draw a line as if on a blank white sheet of paper. To know what you would give up for this idea, you must know cost and stay true to your values. You must believe the idea is important to you and to others, yet you must also research your belief to know. Are you willing to give weeks, months or years of persistence? Are you humble enough to seek training and wise enough to give as you’ve been given? Are you willing to pay in dollars and in private time? Are you able to re-adjust the idea, re-engage it if the timing isn’t right, re-locate yourself or even reject this idea as it currently exists if you need to trust that there is room for better by doing so? What comes to mind is worth—why this idea for you?

I believe there are four kinds of creativity. The one most celebrated is the creation of an idea, but it takes creativity in the process of implementing it. Ideas are “a dime a dozen,” yet few exist as product. Creativity in producing an idea requires finding the best way to for you to move from a dreamer to doer. It may require giving up the idea to others, whether letting them be the doers, whether in collaboration as a team or giving up the idea’s secrecy by sharing it openly. This last one, speaking the idea aloud, provides accountability and even a partnership, for when someone else knows your idea, you give up the fantasy of it to start to examine the reality of it.

Other kinds of creativity also come into the idea implementation. You must be creative in the “nuts and bolts” details and you must also be able to connect. By being creative as a critical thinker to analyze the idea and yourself, your focus and discipline can evolve the idea through the littlest details to be efficient and adjustable. Connecting as a kind of creativity is not just connecting your idea with other ideas, but connecting other people with your idea. It is persuasion in some sense, yet allowing relationship building in another. Idea implementation is more than the end, more than the product.

These are common sense, easy to say, but don’t completely answer the question of how and why to take the leap between idea and implementation. Your own past can help because any success or failure can offer lessons and motivation. Encouragement and a support structure can help because any interest or passion that makes you “you” owes something to environment. What has caused me to be ready to bring ideas to “life” is not just past and present though, but a willingness to picture and engage with an uncertain, yet possible future too.

But I still have to come back to the line on the white piece of paper. It reminds me of the stories of the Midwestern blizzards in pioneer days. In white out conditions, a rope to guide you was the only means to get you home. All you had was a line. And when there is that perfect storm, white out conditions where you can’t see ahead or behind you, when work consumes the time and talent meant for your idea, when life’s distractions and detours take your heart out of you and when your idea itself lets you down, all you have is what you hold onto. Because this will be the exact time when your support structure doesn’t seem to be there and the past victories or lessons don’t matter. It always happens unexpectedly, and for me, it happened again a few weeks ago. You just need to remember that it can happen and it can knock you to your knees. All you will have is your lifeline and you need to know what that is.

Pioneering an idea means defining your particular process and need in order to take whatever small steps will keep you going in the right direction. The smallest step forward is still progress, even if only a “to-do” list. Eventually the storms do subside. Taking a leap requires more than belief, it requires faith. Not in the idea, but in yourself with the implementation. Taking a leap means giving up—giving up fear and doubt.

What do I think caused me to go from being ready to actually doing a dream? I had to do it. I knew that I had to do it. Step by step, patience with efficacy. I also knew it wasn’t the idea that was important, it wasn’t the implementation, it was me. There is so much to learn and become with ideas and with seeing them through, it is your chance to create and give “life.” But always, ideas and producing them are only part of transformation, only part of you, no matter the outcome. And each time, I have to go through this process to know this again.