An Exploration of Leadership in the Implementation of the Okanagan Charter
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Purpose
Exploration of beliefs and actions of higher education leaders in the implementation of the Okanagan Charter across three U.S. higher education institutions

Methodology
- Qualitative, comparative case study

Data collection:
- committee observations
- relevant document review
- open-ended interviews

Participants:
- 15 higher education leaders across three early adopting U.S. higher education institutions

Data analysis:
- NVivo software utilized within each case, then compared across cases to provide relevant patterns, similarities and differences for practice

Findings

Shared Beliefs:
- Holistic view of health
- Health connected to environment
- Need systems-based leadership

Action Principle Strengths:
- Cross-sector Partnerships
- Engage the Voice of Stakeholders

Action Principle Challenges:
- Systemic Whole Campus Action

Strategic Plan Revisions:
- Processes emerging to include health promotion language

Assessment need:
- Systemic assessment tool to track and monitor health promotion change efforts related to the implementation of the charter

References and Abstract

Actions Towards Creating a Climate for Change
Two action principles from the charter emerged as strengths in driving this initiative forward, in alignment with building a strong foundation for change (Kotter, 2012).