General education is “the thread that ought to weave a pattern of meaning into the total learning experience.”
- Earl J. McGrath, 1974

“Never before has there been so great a need for learned and adaptable citizens capable of taking apart and understanding complex problems.”
– Paul L. Gaston, 2010

“Our campuses are producing citizens, and this means that we must ask what a good citizen of the present day should be and should know. The present-day world is inescapably multicultural and multinational. Many of our most pressing problems require for their intelligent, cooperative solution a dialogue that brings together people from many different national and cultural and religious backgrounds.”
– Martha Nussbaum, 1997

**Brainstorm:** What is a generally educated person?

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The General Education Task Force

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Keith Cavedo  College of Arts and Sciences
Heather Lively  College of Business
Andrew Whitmore  College of Business
Lynn McBrien  College of Education
Stephen Rushton  College of Education
John Walker  College of Hospitality and Technology Leadership
Rick Walsh  College of Hospitality and Technology Leadership
Mary Beth Wallace  Dean of Students
Think-Pair-Share
For the following questions, please spend a few minutes jotting down your ideas. Then, as a group discuss what you wrote. Write ideas you wish to share with the larger University Community on the flip charts at your table.

1. What are our institution’s values, intellectual traditions, or guiding principles that should be evident in the general education program?

2. What do you think all students graduating from our institution, regardless of their major, should know and be able to do?

“I believe the purpose of an undergraduate education is to develop a person of judgment, discernment, and balance, with professional competence in some specific area. That will mean that our graduates will not only be well informed but knowledgeable enough to have a sense of relatedness and implication of one area in relation to another.”
- Frank H. T. Rhodes, 1994

“General Education programs should suggest intentionality at every level: the program itself, its constituent elements (first-year programs, learning communities, capstone courses), and individual courses.”
– Ann S. Ferren, 2010

“General education programs should incorporate effective pedagogies throughout their curricula, with particular focus on crossing disciplinary boundaries, putting students at the center of learning and including reflective meaning-making exercises to ensure students understand their progress.”
- J. Elizabeth Clark, 2010
3. Are there any other particular competencies that would be needed to prepare our students for today’s complex, diverse, and globally interdependent world?

“General Education programs that continue to grow in strength and effectiveness depend on the friendly scrutiny and dedicated support of faculty, administrators, and the university community as a whole.”
- Paul L. Gaston, 2010

4. What could make our general education program distinctive from those at comparable campuses?