

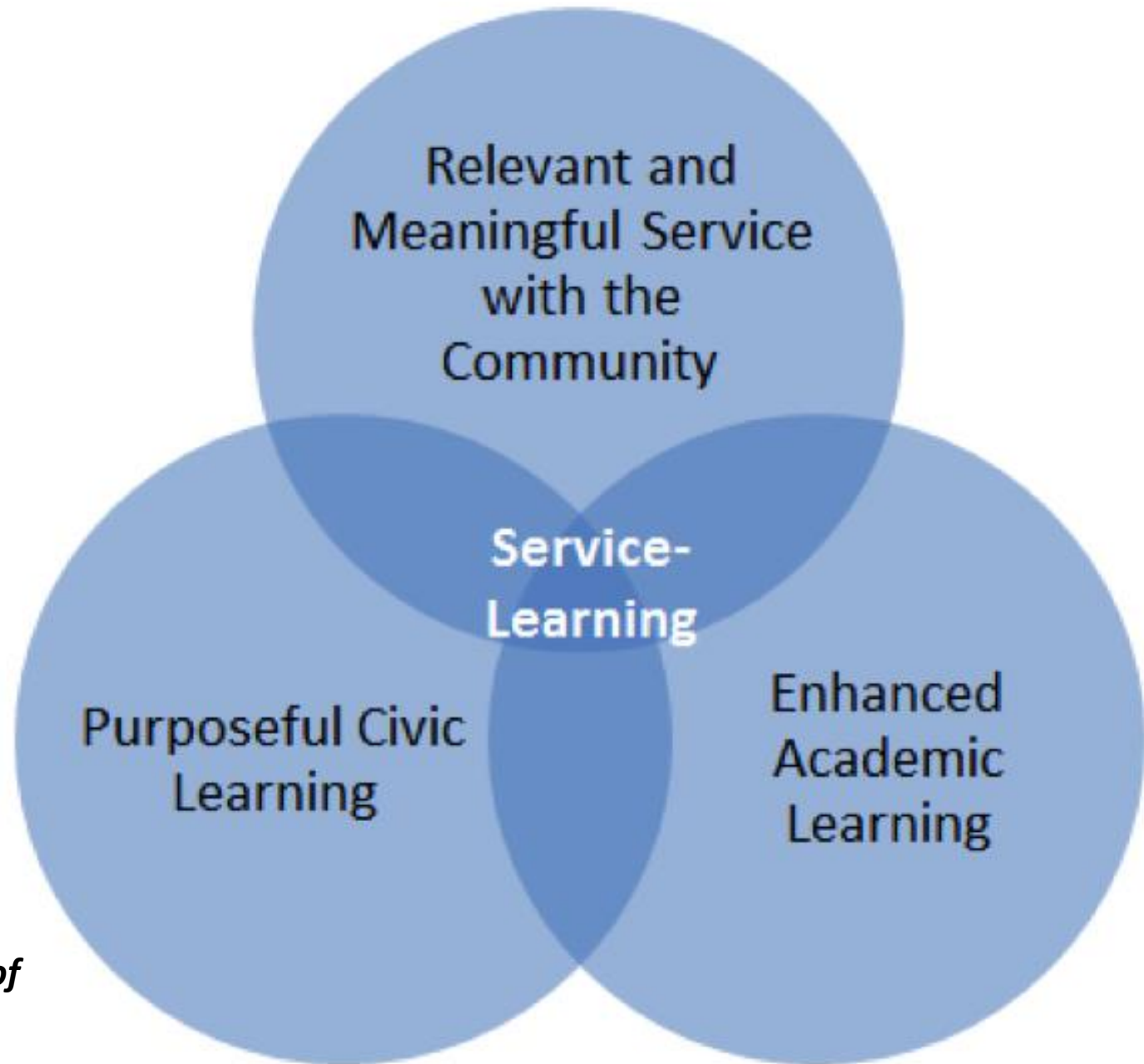
Towards a More Ethical Service-Learning

Dr. Hope S. Antone

Program Officer

United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia

**S-L has
become
more
popular in
Asia...**



Source: Jeffrey Howard
(Ed.), *Michigan Journal of
Community Service
Learning*

Service-Learning is...

“a **credit-bearing**, educational **experience** in which students **participate** in an organized **service activity** that meets identified **community needs** and **reflect** on the service activity in such a way as to gain further **understanding** of course content, a broader **appreciation** of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of **civic responsibility**.”

~ Bringle and Hatcher, 1996

S-L in various forms...

Curricular vs. co-curricular

Credit vs. non-credit bearing

Required vs. elective

Feel-good service vs. educational tourism?



Why ethical Service-Learning?



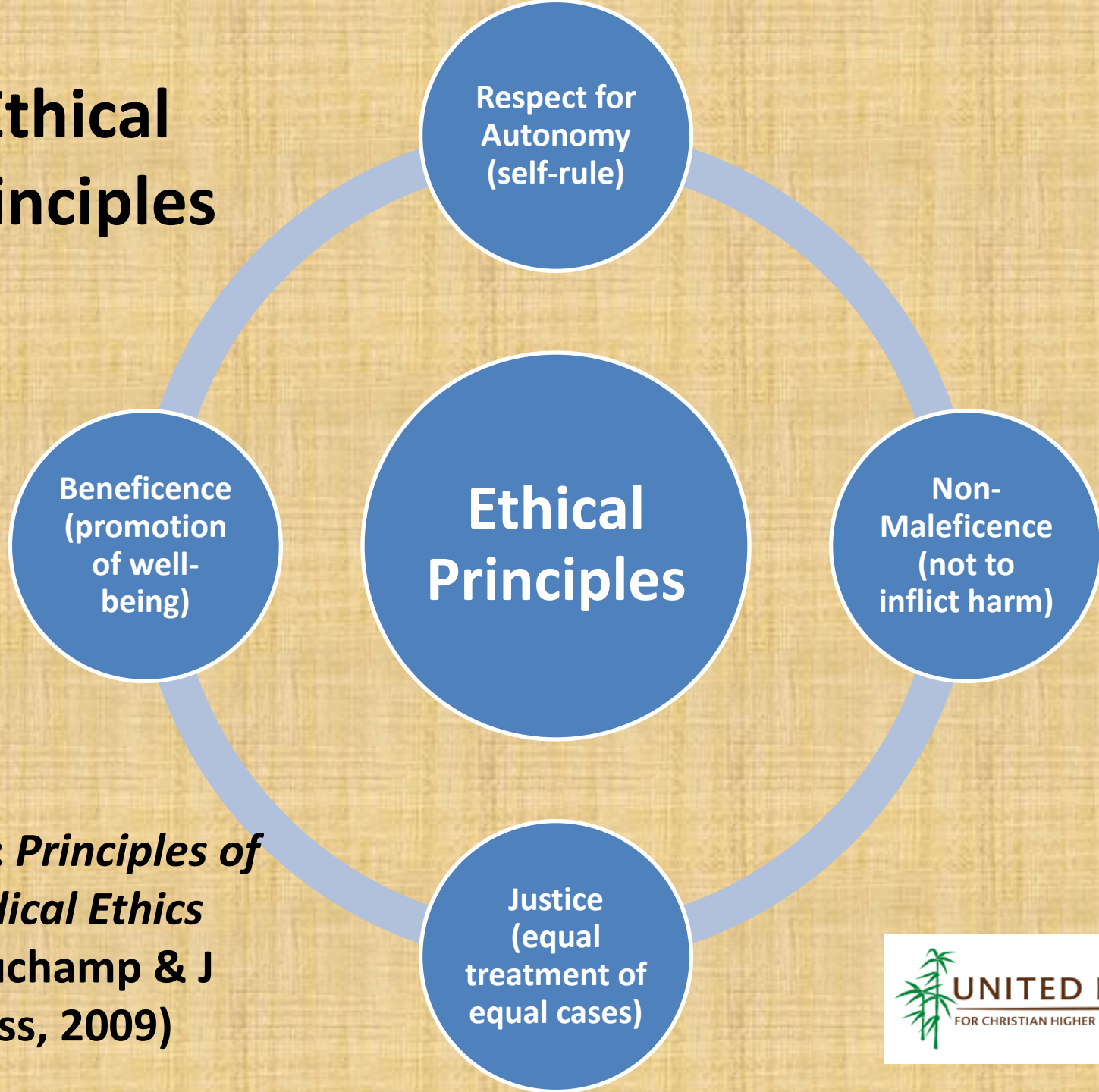
Definitions Of Ethics

Ethics refers to principles that define:

- behavior as right, good and proper.
- well based standards of right and wrong that prescribe what humans ought to do

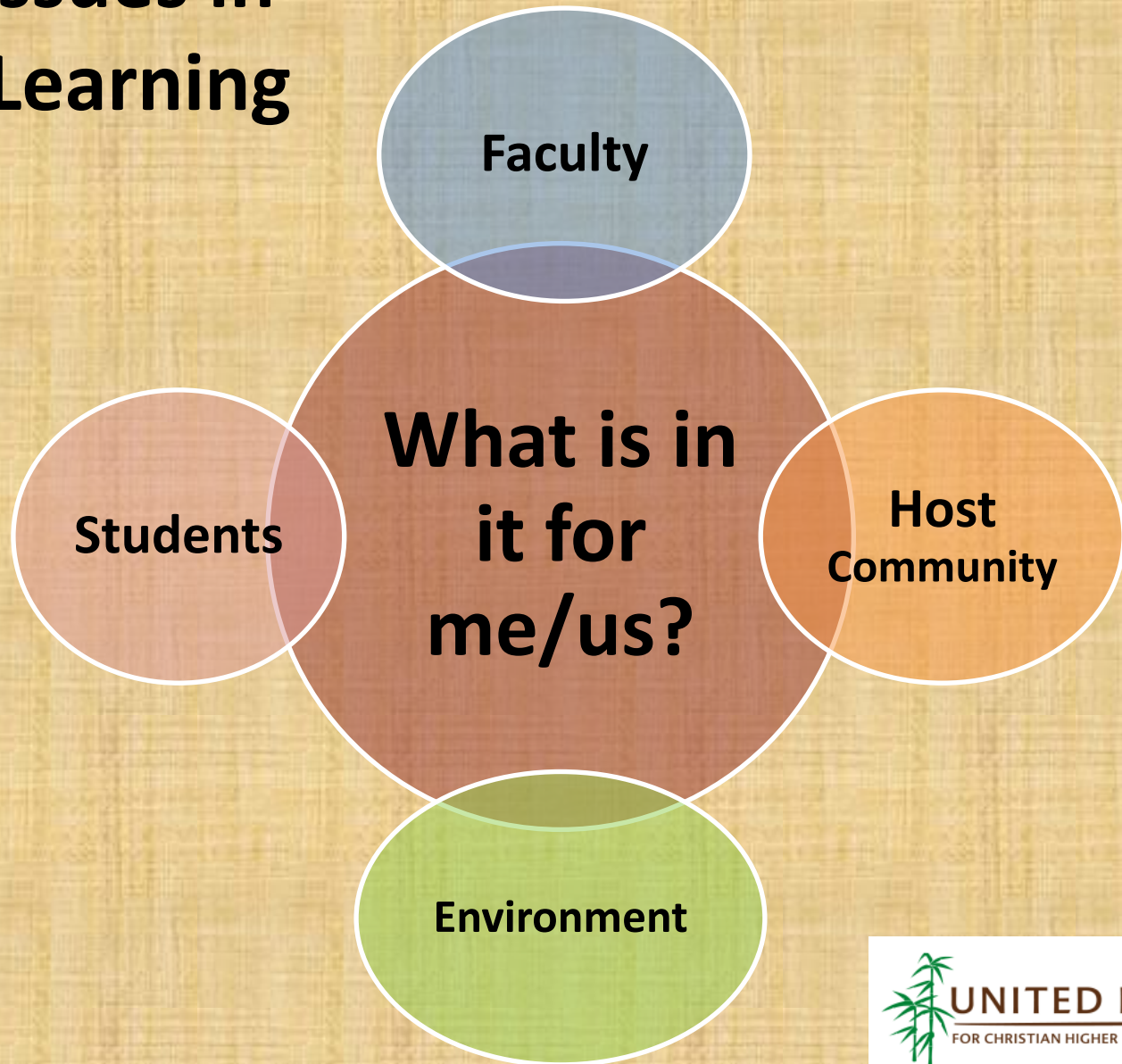


Ethical Principles



Source: *Principles of Biomedical Ethics* (T Beauchamp & J Childress, 2009)

Ethical Issues in Service-Learning



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Ethical Issues for Faculty

Support
from
colleagues?

Demand on
time and
resources?

Assessment
/evaluation?

Ensuring
learners'
safety

Relationship
with
community

Dealing with
parents' fears



Ethical Issues for Students

How is the SL activity related to my study?
Future career?

Is the SL activity good use of my time and resources?

Are the learning objectives realistic?



Am I ready to serve the suffering / poor in the community?

Is the assessment/evaluation fair?

Ethical Issues for the Community

Can we provide basic needs?

Is the service provide of value to us?

Are our needs/ expectations considered?

Are we treated as laboratory?



Is there respect for local knowledge and practices?

Are we not being saturated?

Ethical Issues for the Environment

Is there sensitivity to the natural environment?

???



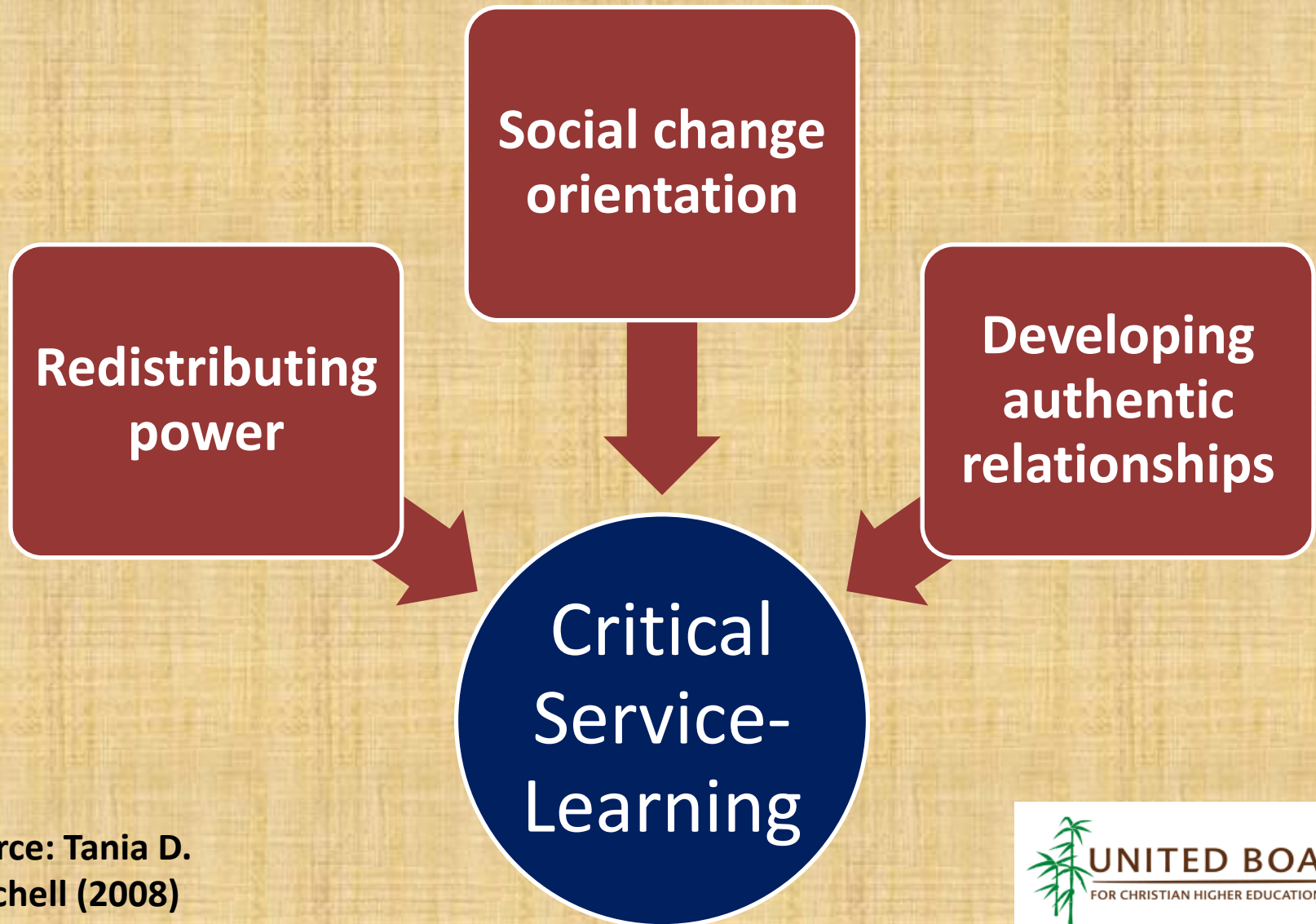
Is the service provided based on proper needs assessment ?

Is the service provided based on solid knowledge of the environment?

Ethical Service-Learning

- Builds on the gains of traditional S-L
- Pushes for impact that leads to transformation of all S-L participants
- Similar to “Critical Service-Learning” (Mitchell, 2008)

Need for Critical Service-Learning



Source: Tania D.
Mitchell (2008)

Word of Challenge

“Can we expand S-L from simply developing a heart for the poor to making a difference in the lives of the poor?”

- Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, Trustee, United Board

This means helping students to develop not only as ‘persons for others’ but as ‘professionals for others.’



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