

Integral Life Professional/Entrepreneurs' Forum

Objective:

To increase the awareness of CIIS by bringing its integral approach to living, working and learning to professionals in the Silicon Valley.

Opportunity:

An effective Integral Life Professional/Entrepreneur combines the key elements of an entrepreneurial and creative mind-set from the Silicon Valley, the recognized capital of innovation, risk-taking and wealth creation, with the key elements of an integral approach to living, working and learning from CIIS, a global pioneer in integral philosophy and education. The proximity of CIIS to the Silicon Valley affords a unique opportunity to weave these two mind-sets together to create a new breed of Integral Life Professionals/Entrepreneurs, transforming both the professional and personal facets of one's life.

Concept:

We see an Integral Life Professional/Entrepreneur visually as a wheel with eight spokes, consisting of the supporting principles, held together at the center by an integral view, or philosophy of life, as the hub. In this visual metaphor the rim of the wheel is the individual moving forward and gaining traction and the track imprinted is the legacy of one's life.



The 8 principles that integrate these two approaches are:

1. be self-aware and connected to one's consciousness (**Consciousness**)
2. see the interrelatedness and underlying oneness of all things (**Oneness**)
3. fulfill one's duties and responsibilities (dharma) in all roles -- to oneself, family, fellow-man, community, country and the planet (**Responsibility**)
4. be constantly aware of the ethical and spiritual dimensions of life (**Ethics**)
5. appreciate the richness, beauty and wisdom of the diversity of the people and cultures of the world (**Diversity**)
6. be aligned in thought, word and deed (**Alignment**)
7. live life to one's full potential, without fear of failure, integrating passion with purpose (**Live Fully**), and
8. let love, compassion and kindness be the basis of all interaction. (**Love**)

Target Audience

The program is aimed at thoughtful and motivated professionals striving for personal and professional growth and fulfillment. People in the community who 'think of themselves as entrepreneurs' and who want to transform themselves both professionally and personally. In the Valley that means almost everyone in the creative and professional work force: entrepreneurs in all stages -- seasoned, new and future.

Typical attributes are – thinking outside the box, comfortable with uncertainty, low fear of failure, creative, innovative, continuously learning, thoughtful, open-minded people dedicated to personal growth and transformation.

Partnership strategy:

Establish a Forum for Integral Life Professionals/Entrepreneurs through partnerships with like-minded organizations like V-Lab wishing to explore the intersection of personal and professional philosophies. Explore appropriate corporate partnerships after credibility is built.

Program format

Evening or weekend seminars, typically 2 - 2.5 hours, including time for participants to network and talk informally.

In implementing the program, the approach would be :

- have sessions on each of these 8 principles (keep rotating them)
- have leaders from the entrepreneurial world and the integral studies world participate in guiding discussions on the relevance of the specific principle being discussed in that session
- use real examples from both worlds on how using (or ignoring) these principles led to a satisfying result (or not)
- as the program progresses, use the learning and energy from each session to feed into the next, so that the program is fresh and relevant
- let the program continuously evolve based on the needs of the participants - without trying to predict or control where it goes.
- make the programs experiential and not just theoretical

Getting recognized leaders from both the entrepreneurial world and the academic/CIIS world for the sessions will be critical in building credibility, especially in the initial sessions, when they will be the draw.

Possible Venues

Between Palo Alto and Santa Clara: Computer History Museum, conference rooms in potential corporate partners like Google, HP, WSGR, etc.