



Tips & Action Steps - "Beyond the Horizon: Navigating Your Career Odyssey"

Thriving through the twists and turns of Extension and University life—while moving toward extraordinary in a sustainable way.

A Fresh Perspective

Your career odyssey isn't just about weathering challenges or reaching milestones. It's about:

- Reframing detours as unexpected training grounds.
- Experimenting instead of waiting for certainty.
- Designing your pace so the extraordinary feels natural, not pressured.

Tips for the Journey

1. Use Curiosity as Your Compass

- Instead of asking "What's next?" try asking "What's possible?"
- Approach new projects as experiments—what you learn is just as valuable as the outcome.

2. Create Micro-Adventures

- Every odyssey has big quests, but the smaller adventures keep energy alive.
- Take on short-term challenges (a new skill, a pilot project, a new partnership) that give quick wins and fresh perspective

3. Practice Strategic Pausing

- Build in intentional breaks after busy seasons to reflect, reset, and redirect.
- A pause doesn't slow progress; it ensures the next steps matter.

4. Redefine Extraordinary as Influence, Not Effort

- Extraordinary doesn't have to mean doing more—it can mean amplifying your impact.
- Ask: Where does my presence or perspective make the biggest difference right now?

5. Collect Stories, Not Just Achievements

- Your odyssey is defined by the people you've influenced and the moments that mattered—not just metrics.
- Keep a story bank: jot down meaningful interactions, unexpected outcomes, or “small wins” you'd otherwise forget.

Action Steps

- Adopt a “what's possible” lens: In your next meeting or project, shift from “what's required” to “what's possible here?”
- Design a micro-adventure: Choose one small, energizing challenge (ex: trying a new teaching method, reaching out to a new partner, piloting a program idea).
- Schedule a pause: Mark one day this semester to step back, review where you've been, and intentionally choose where you're headed.
- Identify your influence zone: Ask yourself—Where does my contribution ripple out the furthest? Invest there first.
- Build your story bank: Keep a running list of meaningful Extension moments to revisit when you need motivation or perspective.

Extraordinary isn't a destination. It's a way of traveling—curious, intentional, and open to possibility.