

Methodology on How College Counselors Practice the *Good Teacher With Four Haves Standard*

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Abstract

On the eve of the thirtieth Teachers' Day, President Xi Jinping visited the Beijing Normal University, and gave an important speech on the forum of the teachers and students from Beijing Normal University: *Be a Good Teacher Who Satisfies the Party and the People*. The speech highlights the importance of education and teachers, which are of great significance to strengthen the construction of teachers' contingent. With College counselors being an important part of teachers' contingent, this paper analyzes the significance of college counselors practicing the *Good Teacher With Four Haves Standard* from this angle, and further puts forward some countermeasures on this basis, namely, a good college counselor should have clear ideal and conviction, have noble moral sentiment, have profound and relevant knowledge, and have a loving and benevolent heart, in order to provide a certain reference for the troop construction of college counselors.

Key words: College counselor; Practice; *Good Teacher With Four Haves*

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INTRODUCTION

Deng Xiaoping once pointed out, "The key to whether a school can cultivate qualified personnel for socialist

construction and cultivate laborers with culture and socialist consciousness that are well developed morally, intellectually and physically is teachers." "Teacher is one of the oldest professions in human history, also one of the greatest and most sacred professions." (Xi, 2014) The important position and role of teachers are self-evident, and the construction of the teachers' contingent is of great practical significance to the prosperity of the country, the revitalization of the nation and the development of education. On how to strengthen the construction of teachers' contingent, President Xi put forward four requirements in the important speech *Be a Good Teacher Who Satisfies the Party and the People*: To be a good teacher, one should have ideal and conviction, morality and sentiment, solid knowledge, and a benevolent heart. "College counselor is an important part of teachers' contingent and management team, who have the dual identity of teachers and cadres."¹ Hence one can see that the *Good Teacher with Four Haves Standard* also applies to the troop construction of college counselors. Based on the existing work experience and related experience, the author intends to explore the countermeasures for constructing "good counselors with four haves" from the perspective of counselor group, which has very strong pertinence, contemporaneity and practicality.

1. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF COLLEGE COUNSELORS PRACTICING THE GOOD TEACHER WITH FOUR HAVES STANDARD

"The college counselor is the backbone of the ideological and political education carried out on college students, who are also the organizer, executor and instructor of

¹ Provisions on Construction of College Counselors, 2006.

the ideological and political education and management of college students.”² On the campus, college students contact most frequently with counselors, who are the life mentors of the college students and close friends who help them grow healthily, thus possessing an important position and playing an important role. The *Good Teacher With Four Haves* Standard is about four requirements for the construction of teachers’ contingent put forward in the important speech *Be a Good Teacher Who Satisfies the Party and the People*. College counselors are also an important composing part of teachers, and practicing the *Good Teacher With Four Haves* Standard is the basic requirements of cultivating builders and successors of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The purpose of counselors practicing the *Good Teacher With Four Haves* Standard is to cultivate “good counselors with four haves”, and its meaning is mainly reflected in the following aspects.

1.1 Improving the Comprehensive Quality of Counselors and Promoting the Construction of Counselors

The *Good Teacher With Four Haves* Standard is about four requirements for the construction of teachers’ contingent put forward in the important speech *Be a Good Teacher Who Satisfies the Party and the People* given by President Xi. As the backbone of the ideological and political education for college students, counselors should be active in practicing the *Good Teacher With Four Haves* Standard. In the process of practicing the *Good Teacher With Four Haves* Standard, counselors should firstly understand the connotation and guideline of the *Good Teacher With Four Haves* Standard. To thoroughly understand an issue is not easy, which not only requires knowing the background of the issue, but also requires understanding the nature of the issue by consulting lots of document information. The process itself is a learning process, which will continue to improve counselors’ ideological realm and moral realm, broaden their knowledge, and enhance their benevolence, thus strengthening the self construction and improving the comprehensive quality of counselors. Secondly, counselors should internalize the *Good Teacher With Four Haves* Standard in heart and externalize the *Good Teacher With Four Haves* Standard in behaviors. To know something is not equal to that you truly approve this thing from inside. On the basis of comprehending the *Good Teacher With Four Haves* Standard, the counselors also need to truly approve the *Good Teacher With Four Haves* Standard from inside and show in their behaviors. Internalizing the standard in heart must undergo a process of ideological struggle, which urges the counselors to think about a series of questions, such as “what is a counselor’s ideal and conviction”, “how can a counselor cultivate himself/herself to achieve noble moral sentiment”, “Through what

ways can a counselor obtain solid knowledge”, “How to be benevolent”, etc. In the process of pondering over these questions, the counselor’s ability to recognize problems gets improved, thus improving his/her comprehensive quality. On the other hand, the counselors should externalize the standard in their behaviors by improving their ideological understanding and strengthening their self construction in constant practices. If every counselor is able to actively practice the *Good Teacher With Four Haves* Standard, it will undoubtedly improve the overall quality of the counselors’ contingent and improve the quality of the construction of college counselors’ contingent.

1.2 Shaping a Good Image of the College and Promoting the Better Development of the College

College image refers to the public’s general impression and evaluation on a college, including the internal image and the external image. A college’s image will influence the development of the whole college. In the process of carrying out the *Good Teacher With Four Haves* Standard, college counselors will continue to improve their comprehensive quality, and improve their education, management and service level, which will undoubtedly enhance the internal image of the college. On the other hand, “good counselors with four haves” will cultivate “good college students with four haves”, and when these outstanding college students enter the society, they are more able to win social recognition, thus indirectly winning a good evaluation for the college, improving the college’s recognition and enhancing the external image of the college. By setting a good internal image and a good external image, the college can win a good reputation and an excellent social image. The college’s good image can promote the better development of the college. First of all, owning a good image can enhance the college’s visibility and reputation in society, optimize the college’s existing environment, increase the college’s intangible assets, improve social status and social influence, and attract more social units to cooperate in education. Secondly, a good image of the college is more conducive to the college’s enrollment and employment. On the one hand, a college with a good image can enhance students’ and parents’ confidence in the college, making the students filled with the sense of honor and pride. And it is easier for the college to recruit outstanding students. On the other hand, a college with a good image weighs more in the minds of social public and employment units. Students from the college will be more likely to be appreciated by the employers, which are beneficial to employment. Thirdly, a college with a good image is conducive to increasing the college faculty’s centripetal force and sense of belonging, enhancing the attractiveness towards the talents, strengthening the reserve force of the college’s development, and promoting the virtuous circle of the college’s development.

² Ibid.

1.3 Improving the Quality of College Students and Better Meeting the Social Demands

Counselors are the backbone of the ideological and political education for college students, and they are also the one who have the most frequent contact with students. Counselors will exert a subtle influence on students by his words and behaviors, so the quality of college counselors directly affect the cultivation quality of college students, which will eventually form a certain impact on the social demands for college students. A counselor with strong ideal and belief is quite clear about what is his/her career goal and how to achieve the goal. In the process of educating, managing and serving the college students, counselors will also guide the students to establish their own goals in life, their own career ideals and firm beliefs that they should hold. A noble counselor can always set a good example and act as an exemplary person, who is strict with himself/herself and broad-minded towards others. Under the guidance of such counselors, college students will inevitably be influenced unconsciously and strengthen their own moral cultivation. A counselor who has rich solid knowledge is able to be eloquent when communicating with the students, helping students to solve problems they encountered in the study, life, and work. Such counselors will win the respect of students, carrying out education for students in a better way. At the same time, college students can also learn a lot of effective ways to solve problems and related knowledge of the long-term contact with counselors, broadening their horizon and their knowledge. A counselor with a benevolent heart definitely knows to understand and respect students and treats students with tolerance. During four years of college life, if there is such a counselor, college students can also learn to understand, respect, and forgive others. That is to say, “good counselors with four haves” can better cultivate “good college students with four haves” and improve the quality of college students, so as to better meet the social demands for college students.

2 . R E F L E C T I O N O N COUNTERMEASURES OF COLLEGE COUNSELORS PRACTICING THE *GOOD TEACHER WITH FOUR HAVES* STANDARD

“Good teachers are not born, but grow mature in the practice of teaching management, and in the development of education reform. Each teacher has its own image of a good teacher. Being a good teacher is an issue that every teacher ponders over and explores, and it is also every teacher’s ideal and pursuit.” (Ibid.) Similarly, good counselors are not born, but grow mature in the process

of educating, managing and serving college students. Being a good counselor is an issue that every counselor should think about and explore, and it is also the ideal and pursuit of every counselor. If counselors want to become “good counselors with four haves”, they must practice the *Good Teacher With Four Haves* Standard, which can be achieved by means of following aspects.

2.1 Good Counselors Should Have Right Ideal and Conviction

Counselors are the backbone of the ideological and political education for college students, who are also organizers, implementers and mentors for daily ideological education and management of college students, being an important force for nurturing the next generation. Right ideals and firm convictions are the prerequisites for counselors to educate, manage and serve college students, and the beacon for the future. It cannot be imagined that a counselor without right ideal and conviction is able to be a good counselor. Counselors should develop towards the direction of professionalism and specialization. When determining the ideal and conviction of the profession, counselors should harbor the country and the nation, and they must clearly be aware of their own national mission and social responsibility. The baseline of a good counselor’s ideal is to nurture socialist builders and successors who can serve the people, serve socialism with Chinese characteristics, and serve reform-opening and socialist modernization. Good counselors should be the positive disseminators for the Chinese dream, the common ideal of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and help students to build their dreams, pursue their dreams and realize their dreams, letting generations of young people become a positive energy to achieve our national dream. Counselors should always stand together with the Party and the people, who are always firm believers and faithful practitioners of socialism with Chinese characteristics. They should consciously carry through the Party’s educational policy to the whole process of educating, managing and serving the college students. Good counselors should pay attention to strengthen the study of the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics, consciously practice the socialist core values, and guide students to love the motherland, love the people, and love the Communist Party of china.

Counselors can educate the students with various forms, such as theme class meetings, face-to-face talks, and lectures, making good use of a variety of games, community activities, and social practices to provide guidance for students. Counselors should set an example to practice the socialist core values, employing their knowledge and experience to ignite students’ yearning towards the true, the good and the beautiful, so that the socialist core values imperceptibly infiltrate into the hearts of the students, who would turn them into everyday

actions, enhancing students' value judgment ability, value selection ability, and value shaping ability, and leading the students to grow up healthily.

2.2 Good Counselors Should Have Noble Moral Sentiment

Possessing noble moral sentiment is a prerequisite for being a good counselor, and an important condition for counselors to carry out the ideological education work. The influence of counselors on students can not be separated from the counselors' knowledge and abilities, and even more can not be separated from the counselors' values about individual behaviorism, about the country and the people and about personal and public affairs. The counselor is a mirror of the moral cultivation for the students, and is the moral imitation for the students. Good counselors "should set high goals and emulate those better than themselves. They should continuously improve the moral cultivation and the quality of personality, and impart correct values to students." Being a noble person and a pure person who has broken away from low interests should be the spiritual pursuit and behavior of each counselor. Teachers infect and guide students with their own moral sentiment in the process of teaching by personal examples as well as verbal instructions. Therefore, firstly, good counselors should have their own principles and standards. When processing the relationship between individual and others, the relationship between individual and the collective, and the relationship between individual and the nation, and when confronting rights and wrongs, good and evil, justice and benefit, and gains and losses, good counselors should have their own principles and right standards, being able to guide the students to move towards the right direction. Secondly, good counselors should take the lead in practicing the socialist core values in their daily life. Counselors should not only study more and read more, but also combine the moral theory with practice. In their daily life, counselors should take the lead and be exemplary in their conducts, employing their exemplary conducts to influence and motivate the students. Thirdly, good counselors should be loyal and devoted to the counselor work. The moral sentiment of a good counselor is ultimately embodied in his/her loyalty and devotion to the profession s/he is engaged in. Counselors should be persistent in student work and strive to become the life mentors of the college students and close friends who help them grow healthily. With the aspiration to struggle for the career, counselors can be able to enjoy the counselor work and achieve good results.

2.3 Good Counselors Should Have Solid Related Knowledge

Student work not only needs strong interpersonal and communication skills, but also solid related knowledge. "Students can often forgive the counselor's strictness

and starchiness, but can not forgive the counselor's knowledge being shallow." "Only deep water can allow a ship to sail." If counselors lack of knowledge and vision, they would have too many problems to deal with in the student work, not to mention doing the job with skill and ease. Counselor work involves all aspects and requires a wide range of knowledge and relatively professional knowledge. Good counselors should not only have related to knowledge about educating, managing and serving the students, such as pedagogy, management science, psychology and ethics, but also needs a wide range of general knowledge and broad mind/vision. At the same time, they should also have the wisdom of studying, dealing with affairs, and living. They give students "fish" and also teach them to "fish", being able to provide help and guidance for students. Hence, firstly, read more books and read good books. At present, there are a series of research achievements, whether in the field of student work or in other disciplinary fields. Counselors can read relevant books and papers and adopt the useful components according to actual situations, enriching and broadening the range of knowledge. Secondly, uphold the attitude of lifelong learning and constantly update the knowledge system. Counselors should stand in the forefront of knowledge development, study diligently, and constantly improve themselves. Thirdly, take the initiative to consult other colleagues and learn from the excellent counselors. The student work is the work of conducting. The students are fresh individuals. Because every student's family background and personality are different, student work should vary from person to person. As for the problems encountered in the work of students, there are not always ready-made answers, so counselors need to consult leaders and colleagues, especially the excellent counselors, and constantly improve their direct and indirect experience. Fourthly, be good at summing up and form a knowledge system. Counselors should be good at summing up, whether it is the knowledge from books or experience from practices, and sort out all kinds of knowledge, forming their own knowledge system.

2.4 Good Counselors Should Have Loving and Benevolent Hearts

In the speech *Be a Good Teacher Who Satisfies the Party and the People*, President Xi (2016) pointed out, "Education is a 'benevolent and loving' career, with love being the spirit of education. Without love, there is no education." Every counselor has his/her own educational and management style, but love is the eternal theme. Counselor's love is not only reflected in the love for the counselor profession, but also in the love for students and love for all the good things. Good counselors "should employ love to cultivate love, inspire love and spread love, and employ true love, sincerity and genuineness to make the distances between students and counselors closer, and nourish students'

hearts, making themselves the close friends of students.” (Ibid.). First of all, counselors should have the sense of responsibility. Counselors should understand choosing this position means choosing responsibility, fulfill the responsibility of imparting knowledge, educating people, and strengthening morality, and embody this kind of responsibility in their ordinary and subtle work, including ideological and political education, student management and student affairs. Secondly, counselors should respect each student unconditionally. Respecting students are an important standard for being good counselors, which require the counselors to treat students equally, and not to divide students into various grades and ranks. Counselors respecting students can make students full of confidence and teach students to respect others by words and deeds. Thirdly, counselors should understand and forgive students. The so-called understanding is to stand in the perspective of the students to think about problems and understand the emotional experiences and behavioral styles of students. The so-called forgiveness refers to that counselors should accept students’ shortcomings genuinely and guide them to correct them.

Only by understanding students and listening to them patiently, can students be honest with the counselors, which will more effectively promote the solving of problems; only by forgiving students and helping them heartily, can students learn quickly from their mistakes, reducing the occurrence of similar problems (Xing, Song, & Zheng, 2014).

Good counselors are not born, but grow mature in the practice of educating, managing and serving students, and in the development of educational reform. As the backbone of the ideological and political education, good counselors must always keep a lifelong learning attitude, and actively practice the *Good Teacher With Four Haves* Standard, continuously strengthening their self-cultivation and improving their comprehensive quality. Only in this way, can the counselors better perform their duties and

better cultivate qualified builders and reliable successors for socialism with Chinese characteristics.

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