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**Fwd: A case of great minds perhaps????Capitalizing on Connectivity**

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**From:** Maggie Williams

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**Subject:** Fwd: A case of great minds perhaps????Capitalizing on Connectivity

Note from Judith after having read this article - (thanks for this Cheryl - was Anne-Marie preparing a more formal memo on public diplomacy

I swear I did not read this before I wrote the memo I just sent!!! However, it does support the proposition I described. Nice to know many of us are on the same page. Now all we have to do its make it happen, and fast!

JM

How to Succeed in the Networked Century

By Bradley W. Bloch, Huffington Post

Posted February 20, 2009 | 10:12 AM (EST)

A large part of the reason Barack20Obama defeated Hillary Clinton in last year's Democratic primary can be reduced to the fact that he mobilized his bottom-up network better than she mobilized her top-down one. So it was notable that even before formally taking over the State Department, Clinton named Anne-Marie Slaughter, Dean of Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School,

to lead the department's internal think tank, the Policy Planning Staff. Slaughter has been a vocal advocate of viewing the world through a network lens. Most recently, her article in the current issue of Foreign Affairs, "America's Edge: Power in the Networked Century," argues that America's best future lies in positioning itself as the world's most networked nation, the hub of information, ideas, and resources flowing through the global economy.

I couldn't agree more, having

argued here that the White House, rather than focusing on illusory conflicts of interest involving the Clinton Foundation, should be encouraging the State Department to steal what they can from the Clinton Global Initiative and similar groups -- organizations that facilitate innovation by acting as the network broker between innovators, governments, and private enterprise. Slaughter's article extends this argument to important policy arenas, but in the process raises an important issue that will need to be addressed if networks are to play a substantial role in securing America's place in the world.

As Slaughter points out, the ability to innovate, seize opportunity, and marshal resources to advance an agenda boils down to managing and orchestrating networks. Slaughter cites a number of examples of what can be achieved through what is sometimes called "network entrepreneurship": multinational collaboration regarding the financial crisis; the success of a coalition of NGOs in working to ban the use of land mines; and an improved response to public health threats through a network established by the Centers for Disease Control.

Unfortunately, these success stories are more the exception than the rule. The fact is that even in the upper echelons of decision-making, we are notoriously poor at manag