

NINE TRAITS OF INNOVATION

INNOVATIVE INDIVIDUALS TEND TO BE...



They like digging into "how" and "why"



They review lots of data to identify interesting connections and trends.



They question conventional thinking and the status quo.



They look at problems from multiple viewpoints & brainstorm multiple solutions.



They are insatiably curious and love learning new things.



They adopt a growth mindset and enjoy learning from mistakes & failures.



They continually assess the situation and are adept at taking calculated risks.



They seek out diverse opinions and champion others' great ideas.



They tenaciously follow through on their ideas, despite obstacles and setbacks.

TO DEVELOP THESE TRAITS:

- **Get curious.** Get in the habit of asking why. Look for root causes. For every problem, brainstorm multiple solutions.
- **Broaden your perspective.** Network with innovative thinkers. Seek input from those who think differently. Be a champion for others' great ideas as well as your own.
- **Look for the unexpected.** Innovative thinkers look for novel solutions to known problems. As Henry Ford said, "If I had asked the public what they wanted, they would have said a faster horse."
- **Get comfortable with risk.** View setbacks and mistakes as learning opportunities. Don't shoot for perfection; shoot for progress and improvement.
- **Find a mentor** who models the traits you most desire.

THOUGHT QUESTIONS:

- What traits have you found most important for innovation?
- Besides the suggestions above, what might be helpful in developing these traits?

