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Building A Culture of Innovation and Learning

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INNOVATION & LEARNING TOPICS DISCUSSED

Definitions Challenge with being Innovative **Cross Functional Teams T** Shaped Employees **Learner Driven & Centered Training** Line of Sight with the Organization's Mission Shift in Mindset (Culture) **Creativity with Guard Rails**

ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE def. a system of shared assumptions, values, and beliefs, which governs how people behave in organizations



INNOVATE def. to make changes in something established, especially by introducing new methods, ideas, or products



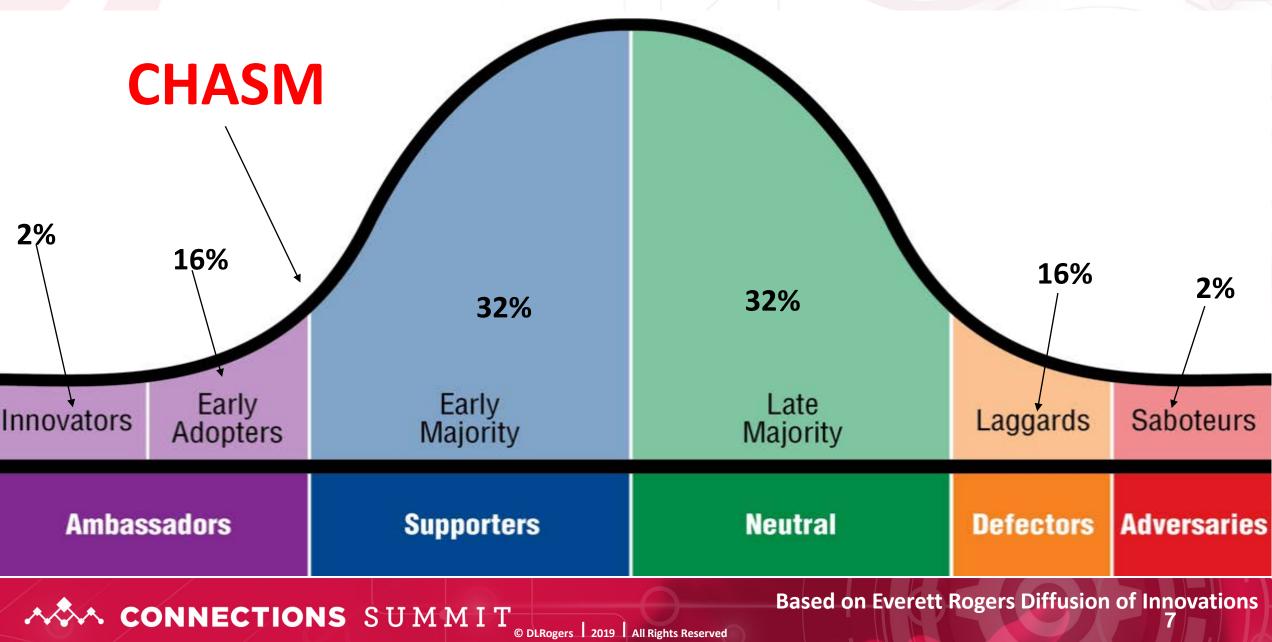
LEARN def. gain or acquire knowledge of or skill in (something) by study, experience, or being taught



AGILITY def. Ability to think and understand quickly. Ability to move quickly and easily.



WILLINGNESS TO ADAPT TO CHANGE



OUR DILEMNA... Silver tsunami

- In 5 YEARS, a TOTAL of 36% of workforce could retire
- In 10 YEARS, a TOTAL of 54% of workforce could retire
- An alarming number of employees eligible for retirement, including a large number in **leadership** and **key positions**



OUR GOALS

- Identify and develop talented, committed & diverse employees
- Mitigate loss of institutional knowledge
- Opportunities for formal advanced learning
- Build reputation as employer that values employees & invests in their development

OUR SOLUTION...

A Greenville Utilities

ilead

Diverse group

- Leadership Experience
 - Entry, Mid and Upper Level experience
- Different Organizational Roles



Lead

Greenville Utilities

- Individual development plan
- Core curriculum
- Culminates with group projects
 - Behavioral Assessments
 - Communication Styles

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Lead

RESULTS

Projects

- Company mission-centric
- Address real needs or opportunities
- Employees' perspective
- 17 diverse ideas generated to-date
- Approximately 50% implemented/planned for implementation





If you wanted to implement a program to foster innovation within your organizations how would you go about it?



21st CENTURY EMPLOYEES NEED T SHAPED COMPETENCIES

Broad Based Competencies

Specialization

Secondary Competency

Technical Competency

Construction Human Resources Procurement IT

Finance

Soft Skills Complex Problem Solving Creativity **Negotiations Critical thinking Emotional Intelligence People Management** Collaboration **Cognitive Flexibility Decision Making**

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LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT Mastery Tied to Organizational Purpose

Adaptive Learning Strategies (70/20/10)

Just-in-Time / On-Demand Web/Face-to Face/Conference/School Team-based, Peer to Peer, Industry Kinetic, Auditory, Visual

Learner Centered & Learner Driven



OUR DILEMNA... Candidate Desert

- Plant Operators (WTP & WWTP)
- 2-4 months to fill 1 position
- 50% of Operators eligible for retirement in next 5 years



OUR GOALS

- Grow our own "certified" applicant pool within 6 months
- Ensure continuity of service
- Provide advancement opportunities
- Could model similar programs for other departments or hard to fill positions

OUR SOLUTION...







Classroom

• OJT

- NCRWA Training
- NC Certification

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RESULTS

- 9 internal NC certified applicants (WTP & WWTP)
- 1 promoted to WWTP Operator already

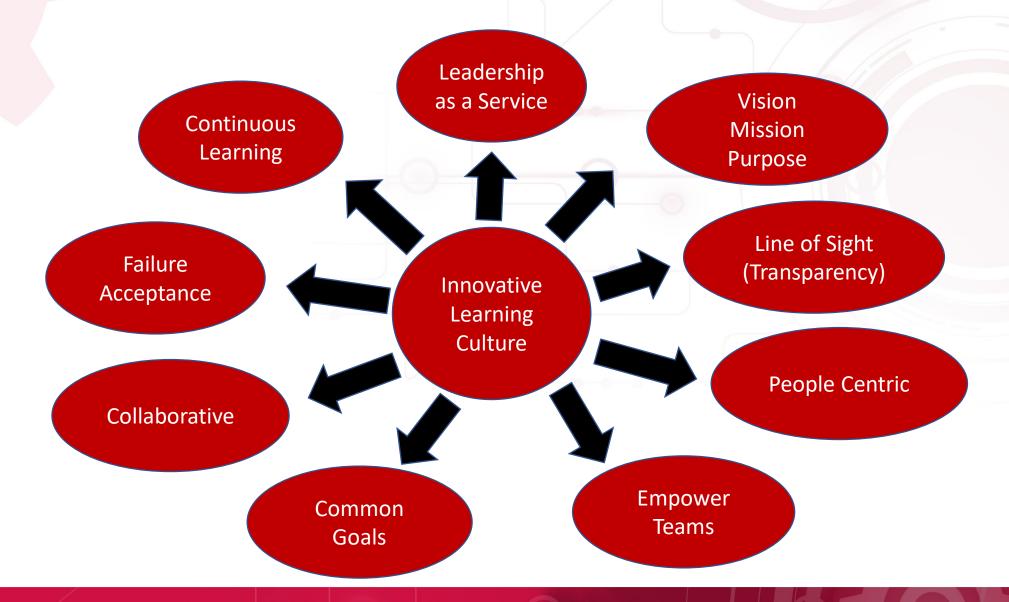




How can what we have been discussing help your organizations?



INNOVATIVE CULTURE IS A SHIFT IN MINDSET



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INNOVATIVE LEARNING ORGANIZATION

Look at the **big picture** 1st

Ecosystem thinking. Solve the most pressing issues first

Transparency

Share organizational challenges and opportunities with to everyone Tie every job to the Mission of the organization get ALL your employees to help solve challenges

Leadership as a Service

Clear the obstacles to effective teams

Invest in People

They want to do interesting things

They are an untapped reservoir of solutions and ideas

Share the learning

Lessons learned

Risk Tolerance

Recruit people to join in ad hoc AND formal teams across the organizations

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QUESTIONS

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