Cultivating your mind is more important than anything else you can do to prepare for personal and professional success. Why? Because the modern world is unpredictable. The whirlwind of technology changes our lives so quickly that there’s no way to anticipate how the future will look. Your industry, your job, and even your day-to-day life may be very different 10, 20, or 30 years from now. The only way to get ready for what comes next is to create the mental infrastructure to thrive in any environment.

In past times, people could “finish” their education and move on to professional life. Today, learning is ongoing.

*Five Minds for the Future* focuses on the most important ways to cultivate your mind for future success:

**The Disciplined Mind**

The disciplined mind will master at least one way of thinking – a distinctive mode of cognition that characterizes a specific discipline, craft or profession.

**The Synthesizing Mind**

The synthesizing mind will take information from disparate sources; understand and objectively evaluate that information; and put it together in ways that make sense to the self and to others.

**The Creating Mind**

The creating mind will break new ground. It will generate new ideas, pose unfamiliar questions, conjure up fresh ways of thinking and arrive at unexpected answers.

**The Respectful Mind**

The respectful mind will note and welcome differences between individuals and between groups, try to understand the other and seek to work positively with them.

**The Ethical Mind**

The ethical mind will ponder the nature of work, and the needs and desires of society. This mind will consider how workers can serve purposes beyond self-interest and how citizens can work unselfishly to improve the lot of all.

The survival and thriving of the human species will depend on the nurturing of these five potentials that are distinctly human.