

## Creative Leadership Platform Nicholas Weiner

Leaders are valued among their peers, in part, because they seek to continuously learn alongside their peers. It is the leader's responsibility to strive towards a better understanding of the landscape and challenges associated within the context in which they find themselves. The leader facilitates the collaborative efforts of their peers with goals for a shared vision adapted to the needs of their unit. These needs are inevitable as changes continually occur. In many cases, as change is constant and needs are ever present, a creative leader understands that the process itself is more valuable than attainment of any one particular objective. *My role as a creative leader is to encourage diverse perspectives, harnessing the power of divergent thinking and directing convergent thinking among those with whom I work and interact so that continuous learning may occur.*

A creative leader looks for ways in which they can create a suitable environment for creativity to exist and thrive. Creativity is neither outsourced nor does it exist in a vacuum. Rather, as uncertainty is a norm and the needs of any group are significant, the creative leader encourages and facilitates development of a space where highly valued creative energy is reproduced within. To this end, creative leaders want to harness the power of divergent thinking. Divergent thinking produces a high number of ideas and is flexible in where the ideas come from. Without the rigidity of a top-down hierarchy, ideas are freely passed between all positions within an organization. The creative leader encourages the modification and adaption of existing ideas and thoughts as well as entirely new ideas and perspectives. *As a creative leader, I will facilitate and utilize the power of divergent thinking in solving complex problems.*

After creating a space for divergent thinking to occur, the creative leader understands the inter-related nature of convergent thinking in complex problem solving. When looking at the many ideas generated by divergent thinking, the creative leader looks first to affirm those ideas considered right and keep from discarding new ideas too quickly. The creative leader then establishes a system to evaluate ideas based on the needs in which they could potentially address. Finally, the creative leader remains focused in selecting ideas that fit within objectives that would achieve goals. In encouraging convergent thinking as a creative leader, *I will evaluate ideas based on their merit towards achieving an objective without discarding alternate ideas that may retain value.*

The creative leader embraces the emergence of new ideas and modifications and then systematically organizes and filters these ideas with an open mind, considering the thoughts and opinions of their peers. These thoughts may be generated from many different contexts. The creative leader intentionally seeks out opinions that differ from their own. This may look like having multiple team members who contribute as experts from multiple disciplines, educational backgrounds, or cultures. From there, the creative leader may actively engage with and/or facilitate discussion among those who share different thoughts. As a creative leader, *I will actively encourage diversity of thought based on multiple factors within my context.*

As an educator and creative leader, I will work closely with my peers, embracing multiple perspectives and striving to learn continuously. I will help foster a suitable environment for creative discussions to occur often. This will happen, in part, because of the enormous need of both leaders and educators to adapt to constant changes. This will help meet the needs of all learners, whether they are educators, students or other stakeholders. I will look to embrace divergent thinking with an understanding of the inter-related nature and importance of convergent thinking as well. In order to face challenges head-on and embrace new, unique opportunities, *I will embrace creativity and continuously learn alongside those with whom I work fostering the potential for a new creative context.*