

Topic – How to unleash the INNOVATOR in us and among us

1. **Manager** - leads by the “book” – assigns task/oversees processes
2. **Motivator** – leads by inspiration – fires up the team
3. **Innovator** - leads by innovation – pioneer/trailblazer/inventor/creator of things and systems

Can you name some of the CURRENT innovators/trailblazers?

Time tested formula for innovation

Dreaming + Experimenting = Achievement

4 Threats to Innovation

1. **Dream Destroyers** – in the book “Founders at Work” the author notes that a common complaint among innovators is that people around them were not supportive.
2. **Risk Aversion** – We live in a culture increasing reluctant to take risks.
3. **The Status Quo** – Innovators often get frustrated trying to push uphill against the combined weight of everyone wanting things to stay the same.
4. **The Clock** - in the book “Movers and Shakers” one high impact leader summed it up this way - “I keep having more responsibilities piled on me, with none taken away. It means that I can devote less mental energy to innovation and creative thinking, which is incredibly frustrating.”

How to unleash the innovator in you

1. **Prioritize**- Do more of less, not less of more.
2. **Observe** - Learn be a good observer of needs – innovation grows out needs.
3. **Network**- Surround yourself with positive, forward thinking, and innovative people.
4. **Welcome Failure** – Innovators accept that each [failure](#) is a step along the road to success. If we claim the freedom to innovate, the freedom to experiment and the freedom to succeed, we must also own the freedom to fail.