



# CAREER SKILL

## *CURIOSITY & IMAGINATION*

**Also known as:** *creative, outside-the-box thinking*

### **What does it mean?**

- Ability to create unique solutions to problems and ideas
- Understanding the subtleties of human interaction
- Constant cultivation of curiosity in everyday work life

### **Why is it important?**

- In our marketplace of abundance and choice, products and services must be reasonably priced, adequate in function, plus beautiful, meaningful and unique.
- Supervisors more readily want workers to create their own positions within the company, outside the lines of job descriptions, which are unique to individuals' strengths and skill set.

### **How do I apply it?**

- Take curiosity to the level of improving workplace practices; question systems and think of how they might be improved.
- Rather than asking how a manager wants a task completed, create your own way to do it as an option that streamlines the process.

### **Example:**

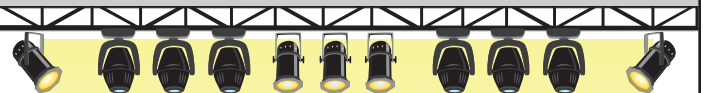
Kristine is a hair stylist at a downtown salon and learned during her training to consider what style will best suit a person's facial features, age and occupation. Kristine often hears requests from her clients such as, "You decide on my cut today," when she asks them what they would like. At first Kristine wasn't sure about recommending cuts to clients, but after taking the risk to suggest and then receive positive feedback on the results, she is gaining more confidence in her recommendations, and more success. Using her natural talent, creativity and imagination, coupled with her skill and training as a stylist, Kristine is able to satisfy her customers and build her reputation.



## **Career Skills for the New Economy**

- Critical Thinking & Problem-Solving
- Collaboration & Leadership
- Agility and Adaptability
- Initiative & Entrepreneurism
- Effective Oral & Written Communication
- Accessing & Analyzing Information
- **Curiosity & Imagination**
- Personal Accountability

Based on information from *The Global Achievement Gap* by Tony Wagner (2008, Basic Books, New York) and adapted from *The Seven Survival Skills for Careers, College, and Citizenship*, Tony Wagner, Harvard University.



The Career Spotlight is available online, providing more in-depth information & videos:

**[nwm.org/career-spotlight](http://nwm.org/career-spotlight)**



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