



Focus on the Future

Guest Predictions: Rick Daniel

Guest Predictions is a regular feature in which we ask leaders in a number of professions a set of questions that affect us all.

Rick Daniel has a B.S. in Management from Rutgers, is LEAN Six Sigma Certified, a Certified Public Facilitator, coached the Dale Carnegie course and is the Vice President of [Cool Landing Facilitating](#). His background in project management, management consulting and facilitating enhances his success at facilitating high profile meetings for clients such as the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Additionally he performs pro bono work for organizations based upon need. He can be reached at (207) 636-7400.

Q: What changes in your professional environment in the past 3-5 years have you found to be the most beneficial?

A: Constant change in a global economy has forced many to recognize that there is a vast difference between a facilitator and a great facilitator. A great one is constantly adapting, advancing and using new techniques to lend credibility to the client's efforts.

Q: What changes have been the most troubling to you?

A: The ubiquitous cynicism across America today which is partially attributed to a polarized political climate is accentuated by leadership that lacks clear vision for the people it serves and fails to hear and understand the people it's serving. Reviving dignity to those who want to work would be an encouraging start. Automatic two years of service in the military or the Peace Corps after high school would be another positive move. In many ways, we've become a spoiled, self-centered society that lacks discipline and accountability. In my profession, this may present as diametrically-opposed groups that initially don't care to understand one another, yet want viable solutions; hence my involvement.

Q: How will globalization affect your professional area in the near term?

A: Future globalization will dictate the need for facilitators to be more intimately engaged in business processes to ensure workable, iterative yet dynamic business models that accentuate agility in the market place. A facilitator that provides a value-added perspective rather than simply running a meeting will become a standard, rather than an option.

Q: What significant challenges might be anticipated in your professional area in the next few years?

A: One challenge will be teaching leaders in the public and private sectors how to seek out a multi-faceted facilitator that knows how to bring out the best in people; helping them to team in order to embrace change and continuously improve, while highlighting their value as individuals. Additionally, convincing organizations that

when they focus on doing the right thing, it minimizes churn and peripheral issues they shouldn't be wasting time on anyway.

Q: What are the greatest challenges confronting young professionals in Western culture today?

A: The Gravy Train has left the station and a college degree guarantees nothing. Emotional maturity where young people are not afraid to live their values (refreshing change) will be on par with technical savvy, the ability to communicate and education. As bold yet low-key leaders, their wise decisions will be the best hope for revitalizing America. There's even the possibility that their wisdom, perseverance and decisiveness will transcend the "need" for political correctness prevalent in society today and lead to improved, collaborative, solutions.