Consider Possible Answers to These Questions

What are the implications of these trends for how we operate our schools, schools systems, colleges, universities, and our education system?

What are the implications of these trends for what our students need to know and be able to do to be prepared for the future in a fast-changing world? (academic knowledge, skills, behaviors, and attitudes)

What are the implications of these trends for economic growth and development and quality of life in our community?

Now, in six complete sentences, begin the process of describing the schools, school systems, colleges, universities, or education systems we need to get students ready for life in a Global Knowledge/Information Age...even an Age of Knowledge Creation and Breakthrough Thinking.

What Else Can We Do Now?

- Read the Twenty-One Trends book. Use it as an external scan and intelligence report. As needed, refer to Questions and Activities and Readings and Programs at the conclusion of each chapter in the full book, plus references.
- Consider implications of trends for policy, planning, programs, resources, communication, and conceiving of the education system we need to become.
- Do trend and issue analysis, flexibility/innovation analysis, reputation analysis, consensus building, scenario development, and gap analysis.
- Consider doing all of this as part of professional development and as an inclusive community conversation or futures council. By taking this future-oriented leadership, you make your education system the crossroads and central convening point for your community.
- Use the information in presentations, in articles, and in building a case.
- Share copies of the full or Guide versions of Twenty-One Trends with board, staff, and community. Initiate discussions and book study groups. Discuss trends at board, administrative, faculty, parent, community, and school family meetings.
- Make Twenty-One Trends a text for leadership, education, strategy, planning, and other key courses.
- Use the content and processes to promote active learning. Blend novel and interesting information and ideas into classroom presentations.
- Keep the book within reach as a top-of-the-desk guide for addressing trends and issues.
- Make staying in touch and thinking about the future an expectation for everyone. Be a future-focused leader...whatever your position.
- Promote futures studies.
- Keep in mind that if we don’t constantly take the initiative to create the education system we need, someone else will, and they will simply announce it to us.