

The Innovationist ...boldly grasping opportunity when it rises to explore new frontiers of innovative thoughts and ideas.





Inferno: Innovation and Integration Chris Anthony, CALFIRE

Team 5 Free Radicals

"I challenge all of us, despite our background, culture, affluence, religious or political beliefs... are we willing to allow a wildfire to incinerate a bias? Are we willing to allow a wildfire to let a destructive and devastating force obliterate an ideology? So, I challenge you to seize your next opportunity. Who knows what will rise from the ashes."





VIDEO (

Advocacy and the Power of Now

Tonia Burgess, DGS

Team 3 The Monarchs

"They say that this is a pilot. I would be the 'passionator,' and the person that they would want to take this program forth to all state departments, because I've changed in this environment. I heard paradigm shift, and I think all of us who are in the cohort can say, we will never think of larceny and contagion the same, because what we heard, was positive. There is a quote from John Moore, 'Good people don't quit companies; good people quit people.' So, we as leaders in here, I would just challenge you to not let people quit you."





VIDEO 6

Why AF?

Eagen Patterson, DGS

Team 6 FLOW

"It's not about what you do, or how you do it. It's about why you do it...What did I want to be when I grew up? Surely figuring that out would help me figure out my why. Right? This went on for months, and finally, as I sat in one of my team meetings, I listened to someone I didn't even like at first tell us about himself and his amazing achievements. It was like I was hit with a freight train. My why is to tell the story. Finding this why gave me purpose, not just in work, but in my life. I'm overwhelmingly thankful for the growth I never expected. It's completely altered my path and everything I do."



VIDEO O



Ask Why

Jag Nagendra, DWR

Team 1 Transformers

"Ask why. Always ask questions, ask why with an intent to understand the big picture, but never to question the authority or the decision that has already been made. Why? Understanding the big picture helps you connect the work and the effort you do to the mission of the department... You may or may not remember this speech. You may or may not remember who spoke. I want you to become the 10 year old again. Innovation doesn't happen if you don't ask questions."



VIDEO (S)

Re-Change: Bringing Back Pride in State Service

Rebekah Gibson, CALFIRE

Team 3 The Monarchs

"My challenge to you would be today that no matter where you're at, no matter what your job is, to remember that you all have spheres of influence. The people you sit with at the dinner table, the colleagues that you go to lunch with, the employees that you supervise, the committees that you take part in, you have an opportunity with your words to inspire others to take pride in what they do. We have so many people within our departments that each piece together carries out incredible missions and service to the people of the State of California. Whatever your mission is, I encourage you to find it, and use words to speak that pride into those that you work with."



VIDEO (

Power Up! — My "Ah-Ha" Moment Beatriz Navarro, EDD

Team 2 Guts and Glory

"When I decided to do this, I was thinking, how did I get here? I almost didn't make to this program. There was an opportunity. I heard about it. I talked with my supervisors about it, and said, oh it's great, but no – there some technical issues and some budget issues. So, I showed up. I showed up on time, and I showed up ready. I talked to Bekah and when she asked if there was a problem, I said I don't see it as a problem. To me, it's an opportunity. I got in! So I say - Show up, show up on time, and show up ready, and you achieve results - like being here."





VIDEO (S)



What I've Learned in Cal-IPGCA

David Zeux, CCHCS

Team 3 The Monarchs

"I didn't think this day was going to come. In this program I learned to be more innovative, more creative, value team work, and to be an effective leader. I applied these skills, lessons, and values, on the job, and through my personal life. We developed a strategy. We developed a way to communicate effectively to look at new perceptions, new perspectives, and most of all work as a team, and value each other's opinion. You've got to be innovative. You've got to take in consideration each other's perspectives. Work as a team."



VIDEO (S)

Stay Hungry! Caesar Gutierrez, DGS Team 6 FLOW

"Check this out. What if we got so good at innovating that we not only became industry leaders, but industry creators? What if we got so good at innovating that Silicon Valley and other government entities came to us to help them with their innovation plan? My message to you is this: stay hungry, make yourself better, your environment better, and our government better. I'll leave you with one of my favorite quotes, and it says this: 'I never lose. I either win, or I learn.'"



VIDEO 6

A Story of Passion for Innovation to Serve Better

MD Haque, DWR

Team 2 Guts and Glory

"I was born and raised overseas. This opportunity to speak to all of you as a government changes is my moonshot realized. This story is not about me. This story is for all of us. As a son of social worker, it was implanted into me in my earliest days to serve others around us, serve our family, our community, the society we live in. I was taught that passion, commitment, hard work towards continuous improvement is the key to success. Success in making a difference in what we do, how we serve. We need leaders, leaders that constantly challenge the status quo, and inspire people around them, and risk to do things in new ways, better ways with best technology. Thank you, Cal IPGCA, and let's go innovate and serve the people of California better."





VIDEO (

My "Kitty-Hawk" Moment

Jeremy Callihan, DWR

Team 1 Transformers

"With everything in this program, it's not only helped me with my work career, but it's also helped me in my personal life, because I go home and I think, 'Well, how can I be a better husband? How can I be better with my family? How can I move things forward? How can I better myself?' And so that's kind of why I consider this training my Kitty Hawk moment, because when I look back in five or 10 years, I'm going to be able to say that this is where my career and my personal best really first took off. So thank you!"



VIDEO O

The Constant Music of Change

Emin Nabiyev, DGS

Team 3 The Monarchs

"I'd like to leave it with that it's not so much our knowledge; it's our imagination. Albert Einstein, as a man who has given so much to the scientific community, lived his life in very humble ways, and every time he was asked, he said, "It's not because I'm so smart. It's because I stick to problems longer." Therefore, imagination is more important than knowledge. Now, I'll just limit it to this. Imagination encircles the world. So, let's take on the world!"



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