Adapting to Change: Fundamentals are the Wellspring
Perspectives on Teaching, Learning, and Coping

A presentation by John P. O’Connell, Cal Poly Research Scholar in Residence

Thursday, February 22, 4:10pm
Cal Poly Kennedy Library (35), Room 209

Life in current times must deal with diverse, rapid, and continuous changes from accelerating technology. Dealing with change demands adaptability. Adapting requires skills and resilience. Are there limits to people’s abilities to adjust and thrive? How do we make the process efficient and humane?

Scientists and engineers are responsible for the evolution of technology and its consequences. This presentation will discuss the idea that technological leaders and followers can most effectively facilitate human adaptability by focusing on basic principles of natural and human behavior and effectively communicating them. It is better to employ always trues than sometimes trues.

Dr. O’Connell’s talk will articulate some fundamentals about nature, people, and professionals. Suggestions will be outlined for educational structures and experiences to guide learners into mastering critical thinking, wise decision-making, and effective communication for adapting to change.

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John O’Connell is Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering at the University of Virginia. He has specialized in thermodynamics research and education with applications to the design of chemical processes including biotechnology, hydrogen manufacture, and carbon capture.