



# 5 Guiding Principles

## Quest Forward Learning

### Learning Requires Action

We believe that to learn, we must be active and engaged, driving the process of discovery, the process of building understanding, and the practice of skills. We learn by asking questions about the world and seeking answers, by testing potential solutions to problems, by making things, and by iterative trial and error. Being a mere observer does not lead to capability; only active engagement with people and the world around us does.

### Learning Improves with Practice

While knowledge can accumulate through discovery, skill-building requires dedicated, persevering practice. As lifelong learners, we identify skills we can improve, and then practice them over days, months, and years to refine and advance the impact and outcomes of our work.

### We Learn Better Together

It is impossible to gain skills and real insights without connecting to and receiving feedback from others. Peers, mentors, family members, and subject-matter experts all drive learning and personal growth. Collaborating with others inspires creativity and innovative thinking. Similarly, sharing our discoveries and successes is an important impetus for learning.

### Learning Happens Everywhere, and Always

This is evident from watching small children – they learn constantly, wherever they go, and without formal instruction, classrooms, or learning materials. This pattern holds for all ages: We can learn wherever we are, but only if we possess the skills to seize those opportunities.

### Learning Drives Personal Growth

Meaningful learning is not just concept acquisition. It is a personal process that changes how we understand ourselves, the world around us, and our place in it. Quest Forward Learning broadens our understanding of the world, the skills we need to work in our communities and beyond, our sense of identity, and our ability to solve a variety of challenges. As we grow personally, we begin to define ourselves as lifelong learners, able to embrace and master new challenges and opportunities with curiosity, creativity, and determination.

