Challenges for 21st Century Learning Tools

1. As is always with us, there's an ongoing battle between the Dems and Repubs over everything, and notably over educational reform. This war which takes place at local, state, and national levels creates a "distortion field" over innovative solutions in education and learning and workforce development. There's a "force field" of ideological propaganda, whereas instead these innovative solutions should be evaluated independently and on their own merits; and not according to how they affect various pieces on political chessboard(s) and the next upcoming election.

2. The changes in communication technology we are presently undergoing worldwide are extremely disruptive to the status quo in all aspects. There is no "going back" or "holding back" of these changes, and that's a challenge in many fields, not just education. Jobs are lost, redefined, and reformulated, and new fields and new jobs are created; it's the reality of the present world, and we need to "surf this wave" and not get drowned by it.

3. Examples of important disruptive change include attempts to use personal assets like cars and homes as "daily rental commodities" through web connections. Or the coming of self driving cars and trucks and buses, which creates whole new structures for those industries and professions. Or DIY healthcare at home, where tests, and equipment can be networked with the cloud, and support wellness in myriad ways, will clearly disrupt healthcare profession. Many many other fields subject to similar dramatic "upheaval".

4. This is just the beginning; we should help create the next steps with the best interests of not only the children, but also the adults and families who need to "move forward" with learning achievements. We need to use resources wherever we can find them, as if we were desperate to find solutions, because we are. Innovation is the name of the game. Those who don't will be left in decline, while the parts of the world who do, will be those who thrive.

5. The Family, the community, and society as a whole have to find ways for public sector, private sector, non profits, and any other sector to work together best.

6. Since Utopia is always just around the corner but never arrives, we must realistically work out compromises and regulation and methodology for change to occur in the "best way possible". Politics is sometimes called "the art of the possible"…although today it seems more like the art of the impossible, but pragmatism is clearly needed. It's scary for everyone, as there's much unknown, and little that is predictable, and change brings troubles as well as opportunities.