Creative Problem Solving

2020 has proven to be the year to force change upon every aspect of business. No longer can we say, "this is done this way because this has always been done this way." Rather, we are being forced to create work arounds, accomplish familiar daily tasks in new ways, and to continually find ways to meet the needs of our clients.

With such a backdrop, it is easy to see why creative problem solving is a key skill. We can no longer look at a problem and say this is the solution, we must back up and look at it from every angle possible and then find a workable solution. Many call this thinking outside the box.

Everyone can learn to be a creative problem solver. Below are a few pointers to help you get started.

1. When a problem or challenge arises, take a step back and ask yourself why this problem emerged. Sometimes the solution lies within what caused the problem.
2. Look at a problem from every angle, find as many perspectives as possible, and examine as many potential solutions as you can.
3. Learn to find short-term patches while working toward a permanent solution.
4. Step back from the problem, start at the beginning and work your way through. This journey will help you identify details you missed.
5. Never be afraid to start with the traditional solution and determine why a new solution is needed. The answer will be found in the journey.
6. Brainstorm, several brains and perspectives are better than one.
7. If you find a solution that meets some of the needs, start there and work toward a larger solution.

Maintain an open mind and a desire to learn. These are the key steps to creative problem solving.