



41st Annual Regional Professional Development Training



Leaning Into Leadership: How to Survive and Thrive in a “VUCA” World

Mark Mitchell, MBA, CGFM, CIA, CRMA
AGA National President
Date: October 21, 2025





Leaning into Leadership



**“In uncertain and turbulent times,
accepting the challenge to lead
is the best antidote.”**

We live in a VUCA World

Volatile

Uncertain

Complex

Ambiguous



How To Survive in a VUCA World



Develop Resilience

Be ready to adapt and overcome a situation like adversity, change, loss, and risk



Reframe Thinking

Change thinking from how to survive in a VUCA world to how to thrive in a VUCA world



Hone Learning Agility

Grow your ability to figure out what to do when you find yourself in a new situation

Source: <https://www.niagarainstitute.com/blog/survive-in-a-vuca-world/>



8 STEPS TO BECOME MORE RESILIENT



1 Accept change

Find ways to become more comfortable with change.



2 Become a continuous learner

Learn new skills, gain new understanding and apply them in times of change.



3 Take charge

Take charge of your own career and your own development.



4 Find your sense of purpose

Helps you to assess setbacks within the framework of a broader perspective.



8 Skill shift

Reframe how you see your skills, talents and interests.



7 Reflect

Reflection fosters learning, new perspectives and self-awareness



6 Cultivate relationships

Develop and nurture a broad network of personal and professional relationships.



5 Pay attention to self-identity

Form your identity apart from your job.

© 2016 Center for Creative Leadership. All rights reserved

 Center for Creative Leadership



Reframe Thinking



From

Volatile



To

Vision

Uncertain



Understanding

Complex



Courage

Ambiguous



Adaptability

<https://www.niagarainstitute.com/blog/survive-in-a-vuca-world/>

Hone Learning Agility

Daily Habits That reinforce Agility



Habit	Why It Helps
Read widely and with curiosity	Exposees you to new ideas and perspectives
Ask "What surprised me today?"	Builds awareness of blind spots
Experiment	Encourages risk-taking and iterative learning
Teach others	Forces you to clarify and adapt your understanding



Hone Learning Agility

Core Strategies

1. Seek Diverse Experiences
2. Cultivate a Growth Mindset
3. Practice Reflection
4. Learn to Unlearn
5. Use Mental Models
6. Build Emotional Intelligence
7. Embrace Feedback



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS





The **Unparalleled**
Advantage
in Government
Financial
Management

 CGFM™

Only for AGA Members!



~~\$90~~

\$15

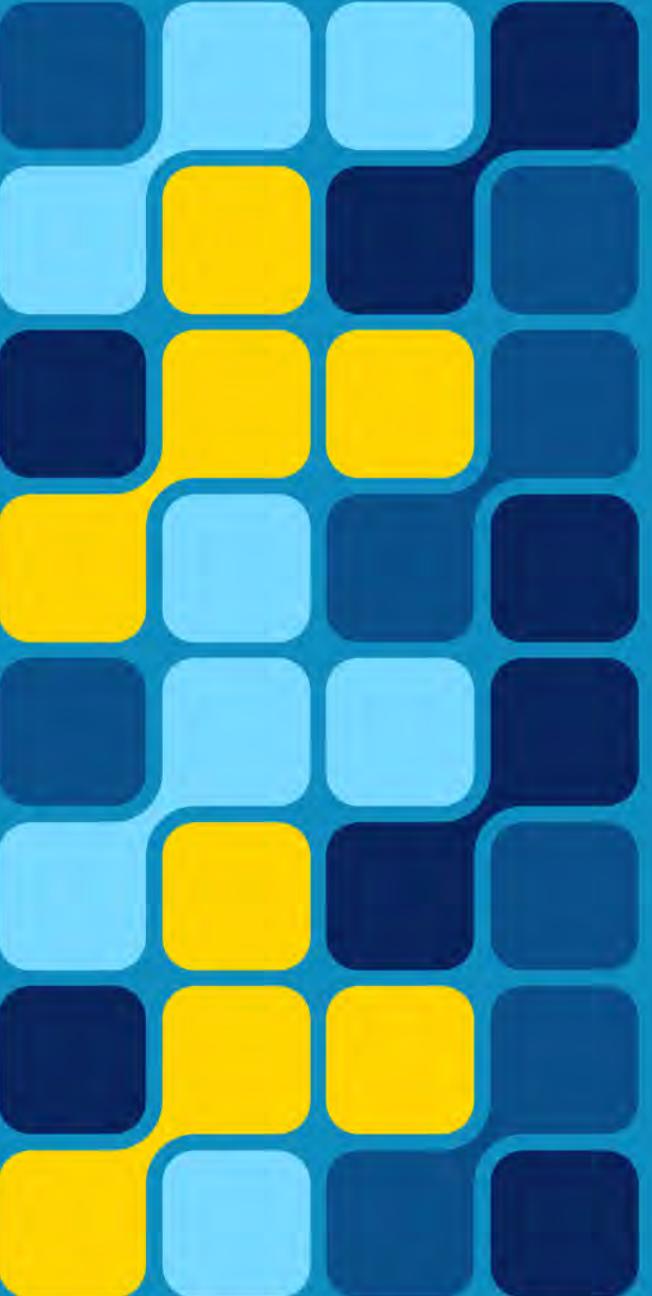
CGFM Application Fee
A *\$75 Savings!*



ERM Workshop 2026

January 14 • A Virtual Event
5.5 CPEs





National Leadership Training 2026

- February 18–19, 2026
- Washington, D.C. or Virtual

TECHNOLOGY & TRANSFORMATION SUMMIT



March 17, 2026 • Washington, D.C. or virtual • FREE for AGA Members!



Boards & Committees

Serve your profession.

Shape AGA's future.



learn more



Advance your career

Join AGA





PDT 2026

Washington, D.C.
July 21-23, 2026

41st Annual Regional Professional Development Training



THANK YOU!

Mark B. Mitchell, MBA, CGFM, CIA, CRMA
mbmitchell@mbmusa.net

