

For the first time in history, the workforce is the most age-diverse—presenting unique opportunities and challenges. Understand key differences so you can manage a multigenerational partner network.



# Traditionalists (The "Silent Generation")

Born: 1928-1945

**Famous Traditionalists:** Helen Mirren, James Hong, Julie Andrews, Morgan Freeman

Career view: Earn your way through hard work Communication style: One-on-one approach Feedback: Straightforward—"No news is good news" Core values: Loyalty/Service/Family/Strong willpower Work style: Respect for authority. Strict rule followers

Learning preference: Detailed big-picture approach with real-world examples

Compensation sense: Creative compensation packages



# Baby Boomers (The "Me Generation")

Born: 1946-1964

**Famous Boomers:** Keanu Reeves, Cher, Melinda Gates, Denzel Washington

Career view: Work to live

Communication style: Channels that reduce misunderstanding, like phone calls

Feedback: Evidence-backed in a "conventional" format, like performance reviews

Core values: Equality/Personal growth/Work/Teamwork/Involvement

Work style: Hard-working. Achievement-oriented. Motivated by perks and prestige

Learning preference: Facilitated. instructor-led methods

Compensation sense: Rewards and benefits based on hard work, like tiered-based compensation



## **Gen X** (The "Forgotten Generation") *Born: 1965-1980*

**Famous Gen Xers:** Tom Brady, Mindy Kaling, Snoop Dogg, Jennifer Lopez

Career view: Work to live, not live to work
Communication style: Flexible and informal channels, like email or text
Feedback: Goal-oriented and result-driven feedback. Delivered in a private setting
Core values: Diversity and Equity/Flexibility/Self-reliance/Work/Life balance
Work style: Self-starter. Problem-solvers. Collaborative. "Work hard, play hard" outlook
Learning preference: Learn by doing. Traditional development methods like training courses



# Millennials (The "Generation Next")

Born: 1981-1996

**Famous Millennials:** Mark Zuckerberg, Rihanna, Cristiano Ronaldo, Adele

Career view: Work for a purpose, not just a paycheck

Communication style: Written channels like email and instant messaging

Feedback: Continuous feedback. Positive reinforcement

Core values: Inclusion and Belonging/Creativity/Self-expression/Social responsibility

Work style: Collaborative. Adaptable. Passion-focused

Learning preference: Interactive and collaborative learning using visual and auditory methods

Compensation sense: Spot awards and non-financial incentives like charitable and travel rewards



**Gen Z** (The "iGeneration") *Born: 1997-2012* 

**Famous Gen Z Celebs:** Greta Thunberg, Jaden Smith, Zendaya, Marcus Rashford

Career view: Work on your terms

Communication style: Direct channels like instant messaging and social media

Feedback: Critical feedback and straightforward dialogue

Core values: Authenticity/Social justice and impact/Technology/Personal wellbeing

Work style: Independent. Prioritize work-life balance. Collaborative

Learning preference: Hybrid model, which facilitates in-person connections and tech

Compensation sense: Benefits related to physical wellbeing, mental health, and social issues



- 1. Increases innovation and creativity
- 2. Boosts productivity
- 3. Taps into diverse markets
- 4. Introduces new revenue streams
- 5. Improves decision-making and problem-solving



# TIPS on building and working with a multigenerational partner mix

#### 1.

Accommodate diverse working preferences to attract the finest partners.

#### 2.

Explore various communication styles—text-based or video communication methods.

### 3.

Encourage knowledge-sharing to create collaborative and engaged partnerships.

#### 4.

Develop a compensation strategy that is equitable and that caters to different multigenerational partners.

# impact

Contact a growth technologist at **grow@impact.com** to implement a strategy to diversify your partner mix.