

THE STATE OF CURIOSITY IN THE AMERICAN WORKPLACE

As part of its "Smarter, Together" initiative, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany conducted a survey focused on the American workplace, designed to understand the overall state of professional inquisitiveness. The online survey, conducted by Harris Poll among more than 1,000 U.S. workers, reveals the majority of the workforce face barriers to exercising curiosity. The company hopes these findings will help inspire curiosity in the workplace.

Even though almost **9 out of 10** workers acknowledge that it's the curious person that will most likely bring ideas to life at work...



60%

of workers said they'd encountered barriers to practicing curiosity in the workplace.



While a majority **61%** say curious workers are more likely to get promoted,



only **22%** of workers describe themselves as curious.



2/3 of all workers report that they face barriers to asking more questions at work.



Only **12%** of workers report that their employers are extremely encouraging of curiosity.

Companies can instill and foster curiosity by creating an environment that supports and encourages it.



BARRIERS:

- Relying on a top-down approach
- Not enough time to think creatively
- Passing over new ideas for traditional or safe ones
- Fear of standing out from the pack



ENHANCERS:

- Flexibility in working styles
- Open to multiple views – even dissenting ones
- Accepting the risk of failure
- Providing educational opportunities



Merck KGaA
Darmstadt, Germany

125 SMARTER, TOGETHER.
YEARS IN THE U.S.

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The State of Curiosity survey was conducted online by Harris Poll on behalf of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany in August/September 2015. A total of 2,606 US workers at companies with two or more employees were surveyed, including a nationally representative sample of 1,013 workers.

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