

# WPI Students

Millennials...  
and so much more

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# Generational Models

- A generation is composed of people whose common location in history lends them a collective persona. The span of one generation is roughly the length of a phase of life.
- On Campus Today (4 Generations)
  - Silent (1924-1942) Colin Powell/Gloria Steinem
  - Boomer (1943-1961) Steven Spielberg/Oprah Winfrey
  - Generation X (1962-1981) Michael Jordan/Jodie Foster
  - Millennials (1982-2002) Frankie Muniz/Mandy Moore

# Generations Characterized

- **1925 – 1942 “Silent Generation”**
  - Grew up during war and depression
  - Introspective seekers, artisans
- **1940s – 1960s “Baby Boomers”**
  - Grew up post WWII during time marked by prosperity and growth
  - Optimistic, positive, rebellious, idealistic, want it all, willing to go extra mile
- **1960s – late 1970s “Generation X”**
  - Grew up during corporate and political unrest
  - Independent, self-reliant, skeptical, pragmatic, results oriented

# Millennials

- AKA Generation Y, Echo Boomers, Net Generation
- Born between late seventies to late nineties
- Focus on children and family
- Scheduled, structured lives
- Multiculturalism
- Terrorism
- Heroism
- Patriotism
- Parent involvement/advocacy
- Globalism

# Child-Centered Upbringing

- Special
- Increased Self-esteem, confidence
- Optimism
- May appear arrogant, cocky

# Increased Involvement of Parents

- Sheltered
- Appreciate mentors
- Function better knowing rules, expectations, consequences
- Struggle with self-structuring
- Difficulty with independent creative thought and decision making

# Attitude towards work

- Team oriented, like to work with others
- Expect to both work and have fun at the same time
- Multitaskers
- Confidence sometimes outpaces competence
- High functioning, high achieving
- Hard work for meaningful purposes

"For the most part they are bright, concerned, connected and technologically savvy kids that work and play well with others."

# Heroes with a fatal flaw?

- A great challenge...a grand destiny
- Difficulty with struggle
- Difficulty with failure
- Will they persist in the face of adversity?

Challenge and Connect