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Embrace the Change

My father instilled in me at a very early age the idea that we must constantly improve ourselves to be successful. He was very fond of the old saying: “The only constant in life is change.” A kind of professional chameleon, he successfully transformed himself from Navy aircrewman, to electrical engineer, to business consultant, to software engineer.

We all know that change affects every profession, including ours. Public companies and IR professionals are dealing with evolving capital markets and [regulatory efforts](#) to fix previous regulatory efforts, a trend [away from active fund management](#) and toward [ETFs and indexing](#), the [shrinking sell-side](#), [declining IPOs](#), growth in private equity funding and [attendant “IR” positions](#), among other things.

Our collective challenge in facing this swirl of professional change is how we adapt to remain successful. In this context, I’d like to share three of my favorite quotes:

1. If you don't like change, you will like irrelevance even less. – General Eric Shinseki
2. The future will belong to those who have passion and are willing to work hard. – Senator Paul Wellstone
3. Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. – Malcom X

These thoughts are, of course, a great bridge to my pitch for the NIRI 2017 Annual Conference, June 4-7 in Orlando. This year’s conference promises to deliver on its bold theme, “[Breaking the Mold – Defy/Shatter/Shape](#),” in that our community will take on these challenging issues in innovative ways. Look for sessions on [accessing capital](#) for small- and mid-caps, the growth of [passive investing](#), [regulatory evolution](#) and sustainability disclosure, the push for a [longer term focus](#), and [sell-side disruption](#) among many others.

By attending the world’s largest IR conference, you can learn, adapt, and shape your

own future professional success. Won't you join us?

Best regards,

Matt

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