Welcome to the Foresight program at the University of Houston (UH). The UH Certificate in Foresight is offered twice annually in Houston. This document contains a synopsis of the curriculum and objectives for each module. Please contact Dr. Andy Hines at ahines@uh.edu or 832.367.5575 if you would like to learn more about the certificate program.

Objectives
The discipline of Foresight helps people anticipate and influence change. While the future is unpredictable, understanding the dynamics of change and the plausible ways in which it could occur is the way to build the confidence and desire to be prepared for the changes that are to come. What is more, the ability to influence those changes, countering threats and capitalizing on opportunities, requires leaders with a compelling vision and a useful and flexible strategic plan to create transformational change.

Course Outline
The curriculum is divided into three parts:

- **Understanding the future**: Foresight includes three primary theoretical components – systems thinking, theories of social change and alternative perspectives on the future.

- **Mapping the future**: Long-term forecasting of expected and plausible changes includes the fundamentals of research (scanning), trend extrapolation and scenario development.

- **Influencing the future**: Creating transformational change includes identifying strategic issues and opportunities based on the scenarios, establishing visions and goals, creating a strategic plan, and reviewing the
principles of creating change.

UNDERSTANDING THE FUTURE

Change
Categorizing change using four dimensions – source, level, time horizon and rate – in order to build an overall model of change.

Systems Thinking
How futurists envision change as the manifestation of the underlying system that generates the change.

Social Change
Historical and contemporary theories of social change used to understand and forecast different futures using different theories.

Alternative Perspectives
An exploration of leading-edge foresight methods for going “broader and deeper” in analyzing issues, including Integral Futures and Causal Layered Analysis, plus an examination of patterns of change in individual values that influence how futures are interpreted and prioritized.

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Framing
The beginning of a foresight project by auditing the audience and setting the boundaries and timeframe.

Scanning
The process of looking for the signs of change before they become apparent to others.

Framework Forecasting
Collecting and categorizing signs of change in order to create descriptions of the future.

Baseline Future
The most likely future, a good place to begin.
because it is most familiar to clients and audiences.

**Baseline Analysis**
A specific process to critically evaluate the evidence and assumptions that support the Baseline Future.

**Scenario Development**
The various methods used to generate scenarios and the most compelling ways to present them.

**Work session (optional)**
The certificate course requires a framework forecast of the participant’s chosen domain for the full Certificate of Achievement. This half-day session allows participants to apply course concepts in the presence of the instructor and other students.

**INFLUENCING THE FUTURE**

**Implications Analysis**
Identifying and prioritizing the implications of scenarios leading to a selection of strategic issues or new opportunities.

**Leadership**
Visionaries who advocate for a new era and enroll others in the campaign to create that era.

**Vision**
A compelling image of the preferred future that motivates others to enroll in the campaign to achieve that vision.

**Planning**
The process for identifying and characterizing strategic issues that feed into a formal strategic planning process.

**Change Management**
The principles of change management and guidance in selecting the most effective principles depending on the enterprise and the domain.

**Work session (optional)**
This session is devoted to preparing a strategic plan for the participant’s enterprise. Instructors and other
students will assist in getting started on this all-important assignment.

All sessions are held in small, lecture-discussion groups. Small group exercises are interspersed throughout the course to investigate the topics more thoroughly and apply the techniques learned more skillfully.

Contact Dr. Andy Hines (ahines@uh.edu, 832-367-5575) for program information.

Contact Alexandra Whittington (alwhittington@uh.edu, 713-743-1991) for registration and logistics.