

If you were going to design a system to deliver the highest quality, innovative higher education to the entire world, how would you do it?

**WORLD
UNIVERSITY
CONSORTIUM**
by World Academy of Art and Science

World Academy Forum on
GLOBAL HIGHER EDUCATION
2-3 October 2013 • UC Berkeley, California

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COUNCIL ONE



Higher education is at the dawn of a revolutionary **transformation** that will radically alter the global landscape in the coming decades, akin to the transition in industry brought about by the advent of the steam engine and in computing by the birth of the **personal computer**. What will the **future of higher education** look like?

What could it become? Help us find out.

Challenges:

- Spurred by lower government spending and rising costs for a college education, student debt in the USA has topped \$1 trillion. It now exceeds total credit card debt.
- As levels of youth unemployment continue to top 80 million world-wide, a college degree is no longer a guarantee of a good job. Should we be educating more people to find jobs or more people to create their own?
- Today millions of new students flock to colleges and universities in emerging countries seeking passports to new jobs which do not exist.
- The needs of society are changing so rapidly that businesses throughout the world face the paradox of more and more job applicants who are less and less qualified for the positions they seek.
- Education is the foundation system for the progress of civilization and culture, but it is bound by a cumbersome two-generation delay – elders teach their offspring what they themselves learned in their youth from their own elders. Given the tremendous speed of social change, it risks falling further and further behind the needs of fresh generations.
- A severe shortage of qualified faculty already plagues systems of higher education in developing countries such as India where faculty vacancies are about 40%.
- For the whole world to rise to Western levels of higher education, the global system would have to expand to accommodate an additional 350 million students – that's equivalent to founding more than 50,000 new Harvards and Stanfords.

Opportunities?

- Education is bursting out of the boundaries of brick and mortar. If you were going to found another retail book seller today, would you build another brick and mortar local chain of stores or?
- If you were going to create a new encyclopedia for the world, how would you do it?
- The world's teachers and incubators for emerging technology are finally beginning to emerge. During the past two years, more than 20 MOOCs have been established in the USA alone. Will MOOCs become the model global delivery system for the future or are they forerunners of something else?
- Recall the most inspiring college professor of your youth. How many can you think of? Imagine a system in which the world's most inspiring lecturers were accessible to students everywhere in the world in their own homes and in their own language. Can inspiring higher education be effectively delivered in TED-video fashion?
- Steve Jobs dropped out of college so he could audit the courses he really liked – his course in calligraphy was the inspiration for the graphic user interface displaying scalable fonts on the Macintosh. Could his exceptional experience become a new norm for more creative forms of education that foster creativity, original thinking and genius rather than packaged learning?
- How can smart phones, tablet computers, e-books, cloud computing, on-line libraries and YouTube videos transform education?
- The need for life-long learning has long necessitated changes to provide on-going educational opportunities throughout the working life and even during retirement. How will the double-helix relationship between education and career evolve?
- The traditional boundaries separating academia from business are blurring and melting rapidly. Corporations already represent the largest education and training organizations in the world. Will universities be ready and able to compete?
- Imagine a global system providing low cost, high quality, state-of-the-art, multilingual higher education. What would it look like? How would it function? What can be done to make it happen better and faster?

The World Academy of Art and Science, founded by eminent thinkers in 1960, is inviting a small group of far-sighted thinkers from academia, business, government and civil society to join us for a roundtable discussion to enquire into the future of global higher education, share your ideas and learn from others as we explore the possibilities.

Please join us for a look into the future!



World Academy Forum on
Global Higher Education

World Academy Forum on Global Higher Education:

WHEN: 2-3 October 2013
from 9 am to 5 pm

WHERE: Cal Alumni Association
UC Berkeley
1 Alumni House, Berkeley, California

HOW TO REGISTER: wuc@worldacademy.org

www.worlduniversityconsortium.org