

PANEL DISCUSSION: THE CHALLENGES AND THE FUTURE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES: IS IT THE TIME TO CHANGE A LONG TRADITION?

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ABSTRACT

It has been reported that when students graduate they will retain only about 25% of what they have learned, most of it will be related to the skills they learned and applied during their study. In his article, "Do we need universities anymore? What if they ran out of customers?" Jim Clifton reported that Google and Ernst & Young are hiring employees without college degrees. Do organizations see less value in the traditional college degree? This panel will discuss the challenges and the future role of universities. The following questions as well as other issues will be discussed from deans' perspectives.

- If students retain about 25% of what they have learned at the universities, do students need the other 75% of knowledge? Then what do universities need to do about the other 75% of knowledge?
- How can we increase the 25% of retained knowledge to reach at least 50%?
- Is it the time to focus on teaching the students how to learn and not what to learn?
- Is it the time to reduce the number of years (reducing the number of credit hours) for the first college degree?
- Will the current credit hours system still be appropriate for future students? Alternatively, can we consider another model like "education on demand" by following modules and not courses, which may include team teaching concept?
- Do the certificate programs or short-term courses will be the trend in the future?
- Can we have categories of students? For example, academic oriented students who want to go for graduate studies (become researchers) in the field versus those students who want to learn the skills and knowledge to enter the workforce?

*. Moderator.