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from Imperial Consulting Corporation

“America Needs a Great Educational Awakening”

Fifty years ago the United States did something remarkable – we landed a man on the moon. We need to do something equally remarkable again.

Fifty years earlier (1919) all the states in the United States instituted tax-supported public high-school education. This was remarkable because we were the first nation to do it.

By the time we landed on the moon in 1969, we had helped about one-third of the high school students who graduated to read at the 12th-grade level or higher. Equipping a cohort of Americans with this higher standard of literacy certainly underpinned the remarkable scientific advancements that made the American moon landing possible.

Now fifty years have passed, but there has been no real change in the proportion of American students achieving grade-level standards in reading and math. In the national 2018 ACT exam, only 38 percent of U.S. high school graduates scored as being college ready in three out of four core subject areas (English, math, reading and science).

The world has significantly changed. There have been overwhelming changes in technology that demand higher education and skills in most workplaces. Jobs and careers have radically changed. But there have been no corresponding changes in American education.

Our culture’s regard for education seems to have been diminished by the ease of finding facts on the internet. Perhaps in the future we can implant tiny threads in our brains to directly connect them to the internet! But facts are not knowledge. They are the building blocks of knowledge and learning. Knowledge is advanced by problem-solving that calls up information from memory and combines it with new facts or ideas to find answers or construct new solutions.

Everything we wish to achieve means not doing something else. A good education requires a student to devote personal time, money, and dedication to a long-term task. It requires the support of parents, educators, government officials, and many other sectors of our society.

Lasting achievement is only possible within a suitable support structure. The American educational system has clearly failed to deliver a broader knowledge pathway for more people. This is a social and cultural problem of the highest magnitude.

America needs to do something remarkable again – right here on earth. We must revive our dependence on one another and collaborate at the local community level to build new education/career preparation systems. Our culture needs a “Great Educational Awakening” embracing the knowledge and learning that will advance both personal success and national economic growth.

AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

The American Association for Career Education (AACE) recently announced its 2019 Citation of Excellence and Innovation for Career Education Initiatives. This award was conferred upon Imperial Consulting Corporation and Edward E. Gordon for their development and support of Regional Talent Innovation Networks (RETAINs). AACE

President Pat Nellor Wickwire commented, “The contributions of RETAINs highlight the AACE tradition of exemplary quality and integrity.

The American Association for Career Education is a national professional organization of career education specialists who employ best practices in preparing students for lifelong careers. AACE annually issues awards to programs, practices, and publications that support quality career education in the United States.