



Changes in Education – part 1

We're all on the cusp of some amazing changes in education. It has become more necessary than ever to prepare our business leaders and managers with the required education for them to be successful in their endeavors. This necessity has also been coupled with some stunning advances in technology. There's something very different about today's technological tsunami. It has challenged and changed the way in which education is being delivered. As a result, the education landscape has changed to a form that would have been unrecognizable to many decades ago. We are truly living in a knowledge economy where intellectual capital is the coin of the realm and that economy is being supported by education delivered over the Internet.

Here's a brief rundown of the history of higher education. Many of the institutional traditions of today began back in a time when books were rare and scholars who understood their content were rarer still. The model for education became centered around a school's library and the faculty to lead them through the material. That became entrenched over the centuries as "the way we always did it."

Move ahead to our present time and the library has been largely replaced by the Internet and there are scholars and practitioners all over the world who are willing and able to lead students through this material. This leap in information and our accessibility to it (along with the growth of personal computers, the Internet, and broadband access) has changed the definition of "what good looks like" when it comes to education.

There are now many schools in the online "business." Private institutions have stepped in to fill the gap created when traditional schools failed to recognize the paradigm shift to the online medium. They are also reaching out to students all over the globe. The largest university in the world today is the University of Phoenix with a current enrollment of 238,000 students and that enrollment is continuing to grow.

In our own work, we have found that we have the opportunity to offer a unique service by providing high quality education in this online format. Online learning allows students to set their own pace and

accommodate their own schedule. The courses are asynchronous and can be started at any time. These are in depth courses requiring serious work on the part of the student and students can expect to spend 4 to 6 hours a week on each course. An advantage to employers is there are no travel, hotel, meal, or "away from the job" expenses with this format. There is also the flexibility to work with companies to create and integrate selected courses into specific certificate programs.

Students today have the to discover effective tools for learning, to know how to learn, to apply what they know. The Web affords us the opportunity to use the online environment to build active learning communities which truly engage students in their learning and development as successful business leaders..

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