DIY U: the Transformation of Higher Education

Anya Kamenetz

Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference

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My lenses:
Faculty brat
Journalist
Mother

Gen Y rep

GENERATION DEBT:
How Our Future Was Sold Out for Student Loans, Credit Cards, Bad Jobs, No Benefits, and Tax Cuts for Rich Geezers—and How to Fight Back

Aya Kameknez is a double threat, a huge talent with a hugely important story to tell. With great zeal and compassion, she lays bare the shape of a future that would best be forestalled.

—Stephen Dubner, author of FREAKONOMICS

AMENETZ

FAST COMPANY
Two-thirds of BAs have federal student loans. (less than ½ in 1993).

Average debt: $27,803

2-year default rate: 8.8% and rising.

Borrowing growing fastest among 35-49 year olds: up 47% in past 3 years
competition is global...

“In the school of international studies you’re required to spend a semester abroad. That’s something that really sets you apart.”
...so is demand
“58 percent of grade school kids will be employed in careers that don’t exist today.”

--Cathy Davidson *Now You See It*
Cost + Access + Relevance = The Case for Radical Innovation
From Baumol’s Disease...
The experts look ahead to Moore’s law?

Cramming more components onto integrated circuits

With unit cost falling as the number of components per circuit rises, by 1975 economics may dictate squeezing as many as 65,000 components on a single silicon chip

By Gordon E. Moore

Director, Research and Development Laboratories, Fairchild Semiconductor division of Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corp.
The Future is Open
Content (what we learn) + Socialization (how we learn) + Accreditation (why we learn)
OPEN Content (what we learn) +
OPEN Socialization (how we learn) +
OPEN Accreditation (why we learn)
"Attractive. Accessible. Unlimited."

"a platform for spreading ideas" – Chris Anderson

"Our professor uses YouTube to show how music therapists interact with different populations."
“We have apps on our smartphones to look up the drugs and side effects.”
It’s not *just* about the iStuff
“If this info is out there for free why am I going to school and paying $50K a year? I want that support network.”
OpenSocialization
We help each other learn.

“Alex started us sharing notes on Dropbox.”

“We have a Facebook thread with 200 people answering questions.”
Formalizing peer learning

“Sharing ideas is really enjoyable—it’s just as important as learning from the professors.”
The Edupunks' Guide
To a DIY Credential

OpenAccreditation
Flipping the classroom...or replacing it
Free online university classes for everyone.

CS101: Building a Search Engine
CS212: Design of Computer Programs
CS253: Web Application Engineering
CS262: Programming Languages
CS373: Programming A Robotic Car
CS387: Applied Cryptography
As adult learners follow personal learning paths...
Institutions may specialize in counseling...
assessment...

STUDENTS
There are powerful ways to prove that the knowledge you have acquired throughout your life is worth college credit. Accelerate your degree completion, save time, and money.

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COLLEGES
Attract, retain, and graduate more students. Partner with LearningCounts.org and reward credit for your students' learning from life and work experience.

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Adults may have a wealth of skills, competencies, and learning that may be worth college credit. Assess what they already know and engage them to understand their career path.

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EMPLOYERS
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- ACE Evaluated

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Testimonials

Excellent customer service! The best I have ever experienced in the field of education. You made my day. There may be hope yet for American education.

Fred M., Student
Content is infrastructure

Socialization online offline, communities of practice

Accreditation eg. badges, portfolios
Pressures-Responses

• Access/Demand-Networks & Scalability

• Cost-Digital efficiencies & specialization/unbundling

• Quality-21st century skills & practices
The New Ways

- Goals
- Networks
- Experiences
- Portfolio
- Internships
- Self-discovery

Web
- mentors
- peers

Personal Learning Networks