It’s Time to Rethink Education

For decades, the U.S. has operated under the premise that universal college completion is an achievable national goal—with the high school diploma representing a ticket to college rather than a signifier of career readiness.

The problem is: for too many students, the traditional track simply doesn’t work.

For Every 100 High School Students in the U.S...

- 17 do not graduate with the rest of their class
- 83 graduate high school
- 17 do not graduate

And one fourth never enroll in postsecondary education

- 20 enroll in 2-year college
- 38 enroll in 4-year college or university
- 25 do not enroll

Those who do enroll still struggle to earn a degree

- 13 do not earn a degree within 4 years of enrollment
- 7 earn a degree
- 14 do not earn a degree
- 24 graduate

And even when students do everything “right,” many still struggle to find college-jobs

- 14 earn college-job
- 10 are under-employed

86 students are left behind

Real World Learning Opportunities Help Students Excel

There are many paths to career success, but also many places to get knocked down along the way. Our communities need the talent and contributions of everyone.

Career-Based Learning

45% of students say career-based learning helps them with academic courses. Jobs can also count toward course credit.

Employer-Recognized Skill Sets

Increase opportunities to earn employer-recognized skill sets through internships and entrepreneurial projects.

Industry-Recognized Credentials

Industry-recognized credentials earned in high school enable students to work with purpose in college.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships allow students to gain valuable work experience and access to professional mentors and networks but there aren’t enough apprenticeship programs in the U.S. today.

There are many paths to career success, but also many places to get knocked down along the way. Our communities need the talent and contributions of everyone.

Every single student deserves an education that equips them for success beyond the classroom.

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The following data was sourced from the National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics 2017. U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey (IPUMS); U.S. Department of Labor, O*NET