Liberal Learning and the Realization of Our Humanity

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Outline

I. Classical model of education vs. career preparation: Possible Synthesis
II. Human Nature as a basis for education models: *Making Connections-Action-Self-Direction-Language*
III. Characteristics of the Curriculum
IV. Specific Course Structure
V. Student Trajectory: Tower Learning
VI. Human Potential
I. Classical Model vs. Career Preparation

Development of the Mind

Preparation for a Career
The Classical Model
Teach knowledge, and this will lead to virtue
The Classical Model: Transformation of the Individual

Mastery of great ideas and concepts: Matthew Arnold- “The best of what has been thought and said.”
The Career Preparation Model: Mastering Important Skills
Possible Synthesis

Thought → Action
II. Human Nature

Education as Developing the Full Use of our Human Characteristics
Ideas and Abilities through Making Connections

We look beyond the immediate experience of our senses to create ideas and develop abilities by making connections.
Motivation for Action

We want to engage in activity leading to a goal
Motivation for Self-Direction-

We want to choose what we do
Language

We have the ability to express ideas and create new ones, using production tools that are perhaps unique to humans.
III. Characteristics of Curriculum

1. Making Connections
2. Construction of projects with a significant component of action planning
3. Heavy emphasis on study of significant issues
4. Use of Language
IV Specific Course Structure

• First year course that includes some choice of a problem or project followed by “sorting” into a section that addresses that problem or project. Students with similar projects would be grouped into one section

• Modification of entry level courses to include a project

• Continued enhancement throughout the curriculum
V. Trajectory- Tower Learning
VI. Human Potential

“The gift of our humanity is the potential for learning, thinking and acting. The realization of our humanity is the fulfillment of that potential”

THANKS FOR WATCHING