

“Jobs vs. Knowledge”

There's a virulent intrusive species in American culture, preferring preparation for entry level jobs to a long term intellectual and personal growth. "Jobs vs. Knowledge" was the way the local paper framed the issue. My reply can be read at <http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/11/12/2479732/w-robert-connor-outside-the-box.html> . But there is a bigger point than the one in that little N&O letter . The advocates of this narrow view of education are themselves largely products of our colleges and universities; we have educated a generation of leaders who do not stand up and shout "Hey! I want something better than that for my students, kids and grandchildren. You can't push them around like that or force them away from life enriching (and career- enhancing) growth."

We have to do better than that with the next generation. The start is being more explicit about the kinds of growth we are aiming at in our teaching, more 'intentional' in directing our teaching to those goals, and more courageous in asking ourselves how well our students are doing in reaching them.