

THINKING ABOUT LEARNING AS A BEGINNING TO FIND ONE'S PLACE IN THE WORLD

My idea is that learning can be described as a symbolic route, perhaps a journey. That we might start with a small learning experience that is fixed, relatively small. And from that particular learning experience, new worlds begin to open up and the mind of the learner becomes enlarged. And porosity is moving both ways—as our learners are changing the world as they go on this journey, they are also being changed by the world.

Let me continue that thought. As an architect, I also believe that it is not possible to separate the learning or academic environment from the world. **I also believe that it is our responsibility as architects—and as academics—to create an image and a structure of a space that gives students a boost when they go out into the world,** to become a part of the ongoing march of life, and perhaps kind of rise to the top.

Our thoughts are quite in sync.

What we are about on our campus is that learning happens along the way—not for self-improvement—but in preparation for service in the world, that learning is for the sake of purpose and the purpose is not just something vague. For our inner city campus, it is about learning that is for students a way to find their calling, which means serving the neighbor.

For us in our planning—for programs as well as spaces—this requires taking advantage of our location in the inner-city to open up all kinds of questions about the process and purpose of planning, rethinking them based on what higher education means today. Note that I've put mortar boards on the heads of my students as they move from our campus out into the world. **We want our students to graduate, to persist and succeed through their undergraduate journey, prepared to change the world.**

I am also thinking about what students become through their journey of learning on our campuses. **Indeed higher education is a continuum, a cyclical and iterative process of experiences through which students begin to explore and realize what they want to be.** During their years as undergraduates, our goal should be that our learners gain the grit they need to really succeed in life.

As with others here, I am really interested in how higher education and the students and faculty in higher education today are part of the society we live in and how we use this position both to strengthen society and our students. **How do we prepare our students to work in the world and how does this all weave together when we think about spaces and experiences of learning?**



HOW CAN LEARNING SPACES FACILITATE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN ACADEMIC AND CIVIC LIFE?

Connections benefit students

- work readiness
- general well being
- opens experiential learning opportunities
- prepares engaged citizens

& Community

- brings attention to community issues
- retaining talent
- new business opportunities

From an LSC Roundtable
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