WORLD COMMUNIVERSITY

LEARN
SERVE
LEAD
SOLVE

Project Overview

Vision & Purpose

Our vision is to innovate and deploy better forms of tuition-free education in networked learning communities around the world to cooperatively solve local, national and global problems. Our educational model focuses on expanding research, scholarship and applications in social entrepreneurship, inclusive sustainability, and leadership development.

There is a clear and present global need for the proposed World Communiversity. We face challenging problems at unprecedented scales. We are tasked with a series of interrelated crises that require different forms of sense-making, problem solving and new forms of education.

We envision building a new kind of institution with universal global learning woven into its core. By mobilizing diverse people to collaboratively engage complex problems we can foster local community impact while steering global systemic change. With our global learning innovations driving all curricular, networking and organizational activities we can better champion local identities to more ethically act as global citizens. The World Communiversity represents an opportunity to educate and innovate across all cultural, economic and national borders.

Our new approach to education allows us to complement the best contributions provided by our current educational institutions while addressing some of the central limitations. For example, while much of today's higher-education struggles with rising costs and propagates student debt we will provide tuition-free options to improve access.

Similarly, as fields deepen their research body in order to grow highly specialized experts we often find gaps in interdisciplinary collaborations and applications. The World Communiversity implements educational opportunities with intergroup collaborations designed into the basic structure of our classrooms and curriculum. Through collaborative teaching by professors and community leaders, we uniquely conjoin theory and method through action learning, equipping participants with context-relevant skills that produce more effective implementations and accelerated outcomes.

Additionally, current educational systems leverage student competitions to foster individual excellence. These individual performance biases can unfortunately contribute to rivalrous dynamics in the world. Our approach complements individual competition with student, faculty and community collaborations to enhance problem solving. Our students graduate with relevant skills to solve more complex and valuable personal, local and global challenges while local leaders and faculty learn valuable lessons that are woven into future curriculum and new course opportunities.

Our proposed World Communiversity will provide students and participants with access to a global network of learning communities designed to contribute to local progress as global challenges are addressed. This can produce higher quality learning and engagement while

leveraging a globally engaged network to address community challenges. Together we can more effectively advance humanity towards a greater common good and promote a better world for future generations.

We begin by activating the core of the Communiversity, the Universal Global Learning Academy (UGLA). This academy demonstrates the model, enables scalable innovation and serves as the curricular engine for growing future programming. Additionally, this academy brings global leaders together joining scholarship with action, dialogue with research, and learning with leadership to advance local and global solutions to the challenges of our time. We stand uniquely prepared to quickly engage a skilled cadre of educators around the world.

Problem & Opportunity

The educational system prevalent today was designed to serve the industrial age by circulating uniform concepts, creating conformity in people and setting forth predictive life and work pathways. Society has excelled in its ability to produce exchangeable agents for advancing routine work streams. Unfortunately, many of our current educational models are not effectively designed, nor can evolve quickly enough, to foster the kinds of innovation and complex learning necessary to thrive in today's changing and uncertain world.

Society is beginning to face the many serious consequences of an educational crisis in which task demands are exceeding available skills. Many of our responses are not sufficient for addressing the complexities found in today's interdisciplinary, systemic and global challenges. This crisis is accelerating significant risk factors and threatening human civilization at a scale never seen before.

In today's rivalrous contexts, people, teams, and organizations do not freely exchange information. Information and technologies are used to secure competitive advantages. Resources are frequently marshaled to secure intellectual property. Spreading misinformation or withholding information that could be of service to more people is common practice. Students graduate armed with the wrong skills, incentivized through debt, for advancing rivalrous dynamics leveraged for short-term personal and organizational gains. Additionally, they are trained to deploy linear cause and effect sense-making to engage problems that require nonlinear complex solutions. While today's graduates demonstrate abilities for interfacing with complicated technologies, they have fewer adaptive skills for navigating the complex ecosystems of interpersonal relationships, institutional demands, and socio-political systems. All the while, more cooperative designs that foster better innovations globally remain largely untapped.

For the sake of sustaining civilization, it is clear that our rapidly changing world requires human beings to cultivate new capacities and work seamlessly across cultures and other social constructs. Many of the challenges that society faces require different ways to engage in cooperative problem-solving more effectively. Human potential is the largest untapped available resource. Through revisioning education, we can accelerate the pace of innovation, collaboration and implementation to better nurture and actualize our most valuable collective and individual potentials. Together we can empower today's communities and tomorrow's leaders by creating more robust approaches to solving our most pressing challenges while advancing the common good in ever more equitable ways.

Solution

"Communiversity" is a term that typically refers to programming that provides opportunities for a traditional university to engage with its surrounding community. These involve short-term joint

programs, local events, and community-based initiatives. We propose expanding the scope of this term by building a Communiversity that transforms the roots of where and how education is delivered, while explicitly collaborating with networked communities to actively counter inequities, embrace diverse perspectives, and advance the common good.

World Communiversity will create "educational hubs" distributed around the world which will be anchored to high-value initiatives formed by community leadership. Cultural networking technology and project-based action learning will be used to foster more generative forms of education and innovation.

In this new model, **the world is our campus and communities are our classrooms.**

Our team possesses a new vision for inclusive sustainability through education, community engagement, and cooperative learning. Our collective experience, ethical foundations, talents, and courage enable us to revolutionize tuition-free education for better harnessing human potential for the next century.

What makes this approach different?

1. Universal Global Learning are the primary institutional drivers.
2. Teaching and learning are grounded in the community.
3. A diverse network of engaged learning communities solving problems together.
4. Students drive innovation and build networked organizations.

Organizational Description

Building on the foundation set by the Universal Global Learning Academy, the Communiversity will be composed of five divisions: 1) Leadership & Governance, 2) Teaching & Learning, 3) Community Engagement, 4) Global Open Access and 5) the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Institute.

1. *Leadership & Governance*: Traditional educational institutions establish a single board of directors charged with the governance of the institution. We propose two boards to better steer and adapt education services to meet the rapidly changing and uncertain future of today's world. Our boards are responsible for identifying global trends, getting input from regional affairs, and identify communities that can amplify shared adaptations.

Board of Directors: Charged with the responsibility to shape strategy and provide governance. These directors address and resolve where are we going, when, and with whom?

Board of Ethics: Charged with maintaining the philosophy behind the educational model, setting institutional standards, and fostering both diversity and coherence.

Administration & Operations: Executes the Boards' directions, standards, and priorities by managing human resources, technology, fundraising, finances, and all other World Communiversity systems.

2. *Teaching and Learning*: Traditional educational models build courses around faculty expertise. We propose building courses balancing faculty expertise with responsibilities to the community's challenges and obligations to both address global contexts and student interests. Furthermore, we assemble more traditional teaching faculty to design and teach alongside leaders, mentors and other experts as essential collaborators for creating new learning assets

and curriculum to enhance the student experience, solve local problems and unlock new potentialities for human civilization. These teams work in concert to:

1. Advance the World Communiversity's scholarship and curricular frameworks.
2. Map out the connection between what is being learned, and how learning is applied in the community to address local challenges.
3. Establish relevant courses and projects which tap into a global network of communities
4. Invest in a community of content leaders, experts, educators, mentors, and researchers to advance learning assets and curriculum.
5. Deliver curriculum in multiple modes, providing access and promoting academic excellence and inclusion.

3. *Community Engagement*: In traditional institutions of higher education, engaging the local community is typically a secondary or tertiary priority. Universities prioritize maintaining and advancing the campus in the pursuit of attracting future students. Our model places community engagement at the heart of education. Our Community Engagement division:

1. Creates partnerships in the community.
2. Engages as a partner in addressing community challenges, problems, and opportunities.
3. Works with local leadership to develop, establish, and launch programs and courses.
4. Secures spaces in the community.
5. Leverages community resources and experts to enhance learning and value creation
6. Provides pathways for students to engage in courses and other educational programming.
7. Delivers community based educational programming with access to the global network,
8. Provides for internal community-building and engagement.
9. Promotes enterprise-wide universal global learning.

4. *Global Open Access*: Traditional institutions of higher education host admissions departments establishing scarcity educational models that increase competition and decrease inclusion. Our educational model reallocates resources to advance more expansive accessibility for all learners. Our Global Open Access division:

1. Analyzes and develops technologies for enhancing access.
2. Provides pathways for connecting leaders, mentors, and educators with interested and invested learners.
3. Establishes distribution channels to foster cooperative partnerships between multiple communities.
4. Works to advance free, relevant, personalized and authenticated learning pathways.
5. Optimizes platforms to increase efficiency for delivering resources to individual learners and their communities.

5. *Entrepreneurship and Innovation Institute* (EII): Acts as an incubation hub for empowering students to take on new initiatives, advance entrepreneurial research, and engage in career development. The EII will sponsor conferences on key entrepreneurial and innovation issues while also partnering with other entrepreneurship-related organizations to advance educational opportunities. Additionally, EII will foster "innovation networks" designed to promote cooperative/non-competitive sharing and exchanging of insights to accelerate implementation and facilitate more robust innovations.

Economic Model

The World Communiversity plans on developing the following sources of support in order to execute on its mission:

Services & Sales Revenue:
  1. Product Sales (books, digital products, apps & other innovations)
  2. Advising and Consulting Services
  3. Extended Learning for Leaders and Organizations

Philanthropic, Organizational & Investment Efforts:
  1. Corporate Sponsors
  2. Institutional Partners
  3. Individual Donors & Endowments
  4. Foundations and Grants
  5. Sponsored Research
  6. Venture Capital

Scope

Three phases over the next five years bring the institution into its readiness to impact education on a global scale.

Phase 1: Launch (first 18 months) – first Communiversity site is operating
Phase 2: Operationalize (years 2-3) – five Communiversity sites operating cooperatively
Phase 3: Scale (years 3-5) – scaling thirty Communiversity sites worldwide

Phase One Launch Components:

  1. Market Analysis
  2. Competitive Analysis
  3. Initial Curriculum Development
  4. Infrastructure Plan
  5. Implementation Timeline (3-5 year)
  6. Operations
  7. Launch Racial Equity and Justice Academy

Phase One Objectives:

  1. Research and test the educational models
  2. Create curriculum for driving innovation
  3. Document methodologies and processes for replication
  4. Infrastructures are pressure tested
  5. Cultural Network Technology operational in the first city
  6. Leadership and essential talent is hired and deployed
  7. Establish the World Communiversity culture
  8. Establish robust relationships within the first city

10-Year Vision & 100 Year Markers TBD (This executive summary conveys the purpose and vision, and drills down into phase one).