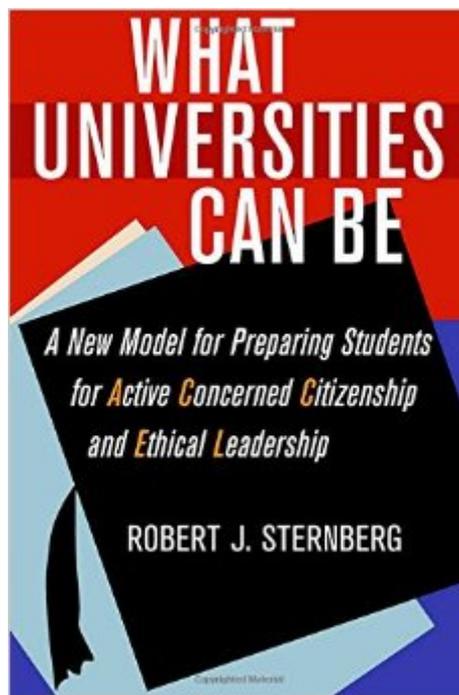


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What Universities Can Be: A New Model For Preparing Students For Active Concerned Citizenship And Ethical Leadership



Synopsis

In *What Universities Can Be*, the high-profile educator Robert J. Sternberg writes thoughtfully about the direction of higher education in this country and its potential to achieve future excellence. Sternberg presents, for the first time, his concept of the ACCEL model, in which institutions of higher education are places where students learn to become Active Concerned Citizens and Ethical Leaders. One of the greatest problems in our society is a lack of leaders who understand the importance of behaving in ethical ways for the common good of all. At a time when new models of education are sorely needed, universities have the opportunity to claim the education of future leaders as their mission. In the course of laying out the ACCEL concept and how such a model might be achieved, Sternberg offers many insights into the realities of higher education as it is practiced today and suggests ways that we could move in a better direction, one that would produce graduates who make the world a better place in which to live. Sternberg's compelling narrative and convincing argument address all aspects of universities, such as admissions, financial aid, instruction and assessment, retention and graduation, student life, diversity, finances, athletics, governance, and marketing. This book is essential reading for educators and laypeople who are interested in learning how our universities work and how they could work better.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The beginning of the book did not interest me, however after chapter 5 is where I felt the book provided a lot more facts and studies. Nonetheless, the book was still boring. And the major take

away seemed to me that a student should just go to a state school because it fits his criteria of what a good school is. The author writes from his personal experience which makes it difficult to relate or feel any type of emotional connection to act. I would've preferred this book to be written in a style similar to Malcolm Gladwell. Some of the studies presented in the book were also presented in Gladwell's Outliers. However, Gladwell's book had an emotional factor that connected readers with a real individual that moved the readers to act, this book does not do that. If the Robert, author of the book, used a similar style I believe the book would have made more of an affect on the reader. Here are some spoilers from the book that may help you decide if you should read this book. He proposes ACCEL institution Active Concerned Citizenship and Ethical Leadership = "transformational leaders" • people who can think outside of the box. I really like this idea, but it's something that we hear of all the time there isn't anything new. He then spends a long chapter going through philosophical fallacies and provides examples of fallacies committed by politicians and media in general. He also wants universities to provide mandatory ethics courses. I agree, ethics should be the cornerstone of every university, since corruption is running rampant in all levels of government and even in business. I've read a lot of philosophy text, so I know this is important but I'm sure plenty of people already know this information.

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