

EVOLVING LEARNING FOR THE NEW DIGITAL ERA

An Inside Higher Ed webinar
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Presenters

- Scott Jaschik, editor, *Inside Higher Ed*,
scott.jaschik@insidehighered.com
- Carl Straumsheim, technology reporter, *Inside Higher Ed*,
carl.straumsheim@insidehighered.com



The MOOC Revolution That Wasn't

The Professors' Big Stage

MARCH 5, 2013



Thomas L. Friedman

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I just spent the last two days at a great conference convened by M.I.T. and Harvard on "Online Learning and the Future of Residential Education" — a k a "How can colleges charge \$50,000 a year if my kid can learn it all free from massive open online courses?"

You may think this MOOCs revolution is hyped, but my driver in Boston disagrees. You see, I was picked up at Logan Airport by my old friend Michael Sandel, who teaches the famous Socratic, 1,000-student "Justice" course at Harvard, which is launching March 12 as the first humanities offering on the M.I.T.-Harvard edX online learning platform. When he met me at the airport I saw he was wearing some very colorful sneakers.

"Where did you get those?" I asked. Well, Sandel explained, he had recently been in South Korea, where his Justice course has been translated into Korean and shown on national television. It has made him such a popular figure there that the Koreans asked him to throw out the ceremonial first

MOOCs will take off in a big way the world over by 2020: Anant Agarwal, edX

JOURNAL REPORTS: LEADERSHIP

Can MOOCs and Universities Co-Exist?

Lessons From MOOC Hype

- Business plans matter.
- Learning matters.
- Certification (degrees and otherwise) matters.
- Meaningful student-faculty interaction matters.
- “Harvard has embraced it” doesn’t mean everyone will.
- Most great things in higher ed are evolved from interesting but perhaps not great things.

MOOC-Like Programs to Watch

Not free, not completely open, but...

- Georgia Tech computer science master's program
- MITx certificate programs
- Arizona State-edX freshman year
- U of Illinois online MBA with Coursera



Business-Sponsored Ed Online

- New push by big companies to upgrade workers' skills and to retain workers.
- Much of push involves large online providers.
- Pros and cons of such arrangements.



The Role of Metrics

- Digital tools and the ease of measurement.
- What to measure.
- Who analyzes and at what point.
- San Jose State U as a case study.

The New Norm: Hybrid



Competency-Based Education*

- Early adopters.
- Increasing embrace by traditional universities.
- Moving into new areas (such as education).

*Not all competency learning is digital.



Changing the Way America Prepares Teachers and School Leaders

The Woodrow Wilson Academy of Teaching and Learning is a pioneering graduate school that will prepare outstanding individuals for successful careers as educators. It will also be an innovative education lab, examining what works in teacher and school leadership education.

Adaptive Learning

- Original concept.
- How it is growing.
- Personalized learning.
- Faculty role.

Smartwatches and Internet of Things

- Early educational uses.
- New security concerns.



Colleges That Serve At-Risk Students

- The California community college study.
- The Connecticut system push.
- Essentials for success for at-risk students and digital learning.

Liberal Arts Colleges

- Online learning.
- Collaboration.
- The library role.



Key Challenge: Faculty Role

- Evolving faculty role.
- Training.
- Rewards.
- Skepticism.



With Thanks

- Your questions.
- Your ideas for future coverage.

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