



# THE AMERICAN LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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## From the Publisher

### Educating Our Children in the 21st Century

In the last 100 years, few institutions have changed as little as have our schools. We still have our children sit at desks in neat rows with a teacher in front telling them what they must learn. The subjects – math, history, English, and the like – are much the same as they were a century ago, and students move from one subject to the next at 50-60 minute intervals. Should it be this way?

Schools should not change just for the sake of change, but one wonders if in the vastly different world of today our ancient pedagogical methods still work to the best advantage of students. In the world outside the classroom computers are omnipresent, teamwork is essential, and workers must be able to integrate what they have learned from several different disciplines. Are our schools doing the best possible job (not merely an adequate one) in preparing children for this world? Studies of the brain show that children learn second and third languages fastest at a very young age. Does it make sense to wait until the 6th or 7th grade to start students on a foreign language?

These questions and many more must be addressed by parents and educators. Education is the birthright of every child in every nation. And by education, we must no longer think in terms of time spent in a classroom but of useful skills actually acquired.

Children, to be successful in later life, must be able to do more than rattle off facts and figures; they must think critically, use their imagination, be creative and analytical, and be committed to lifelong learning. Speaking on education, Swami Chinmayananda said, "Children are not vessels to be filled, but lamps to be lit." Lighting those lamps will ensure that our children can meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

In this issue we focus on how educational institutions are adapting to new realities, with an interesting feature article on community colleges in the United States. We have also included lists of books and other resources available at the American Library along with information on recent events.

I look forward to seeing you at the library,

Frederick J. Kaplan  
Consul for Public Affairs

## U.S. Community Colleges: A Gateway to Higher Education for Many

**George R. Boggs**

Community colleges are the gateway to higher education in the United States for a growing number of students. These colleges provide students with an opportunity to earn credits for the first two years of a four-year bachelor's degree at high-quality, accredited institutions. With their lower tuition costs, community colleges give students a way to save money while learning in a supportive environment. They also allow students to access training for associate-degree or nondegree careers, and they offer continuing education and personal development classes for the broad spectrum of adult learners.

Community colleges are the largest and fastest-growing sector of higher education in the United States. There are now nearly 1,200 regionally accredited community colleges located throughout the country, serving more than 11 million students (approximately 46 percent of all U.S. undergraduates). U.S. community colleges offer international students numerous benefits, including opportunities to improve English language skills and to build an understanding of American culture in a U.S. community.

Among the benefits of community colleges are:

**Lower Cost.** Tuition costs are significantly lower than four-year colleges and universities (about \$5,000 per year as compared to \$12,000 to \$20,000 or more for a four-year institution).

**Easy Transfer to a University.** A "2+2" system in the United States refers to an efficient system of "articulation" between a two-year college and a four-year college or university. Most community colleges have articulation agreements with four-year colleges and universities, ensuring that credits earned at the community college will count toward the four-year degree program.

### Dates to Remember

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| January 15        | Martin Luther King, Jr.: Birth Anniversary |
| February 12, 1809 | Abraham Lincoln: Birth Anniversary         |
| February 1-28     | National African History Month             |
| February 20       | President's Day                            |
| February 22, 1732 | George Washington: Birth Anniversary       |
| March 1-31        | Women's History Month                      |

Accredited Institutions. American community colleges, four-year colleges, and major universities are all accredited by the same agencies. That is why universities accept course credits obtained at community colleges.

Wide Variety of Programs. Community colleges have hundreds of majors from which to choose, including popular areas such as business management, computer science, engineering, and health sciences-related programs.

English as a Second Language. Most community colleges offer a wide range of English course offerings at multiple levels and an array of support services to ensure that students with different language proficiencies succeed.

A Supportive Learning Environment. Community colleges offer small class sizes, averaging fewer than 30 students, allowing personal attention and ongoing support from professors. The focus is on individual student success within an environment designed to support students' learning patterns and needs. Support services for students include tutoring, advising, writing labs, international student clubs, and international student service centers.

Diversity. U.S. community college students come from diverse cultural heritages and ethnicities. The colleges offer a wide spectrum of clubs and activities that celebrate and support the diversity that describes society in the United States.

Access to U.S. Culture. Because they are reflective of and responsive to their communities, community colleges tend to have strong local ties. This relationship provides international students with extensive opportunities to interact with Americans and to experience American culture.

Variety of Locations and Campus Sizes. Community colleges, like other educational institutions in the United States, differ widely. Some are large, multicampus institutions located in big cities, while others are much smaller schools located in rural settings and serving small student populations. There is a community college conveniently located within commuting distance of 90 percent of the U.S. population.

Distinguished Alumni. Alumni of U.S. community colleges include California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and former Maryland Governor Parris Glendening, NASA space shuttle commander Eileen Collins, Star Wars movie series producer/director George Lucas, film actors Tom Hanks and Clint Eastwood, fashion designer Calvin Klein, human genome scientist Craig Venter, and U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona.

For more information about studying at a U.S. community college, go to <http://www.CC-USA.org> or read *A Guide to Studying at U.S. Community Colleges*, available at local EducationUSA advising centers.

Source: eJournal USA, Society and Values, College and University Education in the United States, November 2005

*The opinions expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor*

### **Books**

American Academy of Political and Social Science. **Community Colleges: New Environments, New Directions** / special editors, Kathleen M. Shaw and Jerry A. Jacobs. Thousand Oaks, CA; London: Sage Publications, 2003. (378.1543 AME)

**Distance Learning and University Effectiveness: Changing Education Paradigms for Online Learning** / Caroline Howard, Karen Schenk, Richard Discenza, editor[s]. Hershey, PA: Information Science Pub., c2004. (REF 378.1 DIS)

**Globalization and Higher Education** / Jaishree K. Odin and Peter T. Manicas, editors. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai'i Press, c2004. (378 GOL)

**Higher Education for the Public Good: Emerging Voices from a National Movement** / [edited by] Adrianna J. Kezar, Tony C. Chambers, John Burkhardt. 1st ed. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, c2005. (378 HIG)

**Higher Education in the Twenty-First Century** / special editors of this volume: Paul Rich, David Merchant. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2003. (378 AME)

**Making Good Citizens: Education and Civil Society** / edited by Diane Vitch and Joseph P. Viteritti. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, oik c2001. (370.115 MAK)

### **Library Holidays**

February 19 – President's Day  
March 19 – Telugu New Year's Day  
April 6 – Good Friday

**Serving the Millennial Generation** / Michael D. Coomes, Robert DeBard, editors. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, c2004. (378.198 SER)

*REF – indicates for reference use at the library.*

### Articles

#### **THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT: STUDENT PERCEPTIONS.**

By Sandra Veltri et al. *College Student Journal*, September 1, 2006 pp 517 - 528

#### **A COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S LONG-TERM COMMITMENT**

By Susan E. Daniels. *Quality Progress*, June 2006, pp.47 – 50.

#### **FROM LEARNING TO EDUCATION: A NEW PARADIGM FOR THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

By Chad M. Hanson. *Community College Review*; October 2006 pp. 128 – 138

#### **GLOBALIZATION IS CHANGING THE WORLD OF EDUCATION: A CASE FOR THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BACCALAUREATE**

By Kenneth P. Walker. *Community College Journal*. June/July 2006, pp.14-19.

#### **THE INFLUENCE OF SUBCULTURES ON PLANNED CHANGE IN A COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

By Mary G Locke; Lucy Guglielmino. *Community College Review*, October 2006 pp.108-127

#### **WHY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS MAKE SUCCESSFUL TRANSFER STUDENTS**

By David Urso and John J. “Ski” Sygielski. *Journal of College Admission*, Winter 2007 pp. 12-17

### Web Links

American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)  
<http://www.aacc.nche.edu/>

Community College Leadership Program (CCLP)  
<http://www.utexas.edu/academic/cclp/>

Community Colleges for International Development, Inc. (CCID)  
<http://ccid.kirkwood.cc.ia.us/>

Council for the Study of Community Colleges  
<http://www.cscconline.org/>

Fulbright Program

<http://www.fulbrightonline.org/>

The Institute of International Education, Inc.  
<http://www.iie.org/>

U.S. Dept. of Education: Office of Vocational Adult Education: Community Colleges Homepage  
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE/CLO/index.html>

### New at the American Library

### Books

Batiza, Ann. **Bioinformatics, Genomics, and Proteomics: Getting the Big Picture** / Ann Finney Batiza. [Philadelphia, PA.]: Chelsea House Publishers, 2006. (572.8 BAT)

Bosso, Christopher J. **Environment, Inc.: From Grassroots to Beltway** / Christopher J. Bosso. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2005. (333.72 BOS)

Branch, Taylor. **At Canaan's Edge: America in the King Years, 1965-68** / Taylor Branch. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2006. (323.1196073 KIN)

Dym, Barry. **Leadership in Nonprofit Organizations** / Barry Dym and Harry Hutson. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2005. (658.4092 DYM)

**Globalization, Health, and the Environment: An Integrated Perspective** / edited by Greg Guest. Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press, 2005. (363.7 GLO)

**International Public Goods and Transfer of Technology Under a Globalized Intellectual Property Regime** / edited by Keith E. Maskus and Jerome H. Reichman. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2005. (346.048 INT).

Jaccard, Mark Kenneth. **Sustainable Fossil Fuels: The Unusual Suspect in the Quest for Clean and Enduring Energy** / Mark Jaccard. Cambridge, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005. (333.82 JAC)

Michaelson, Gerald A. **Sun Tzu Strategies for Marketing: 12 Essential Principles for Winning**

**the War for Customers** / Gerald A. Michaelson with Steven W. Michaelson. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 2004. (658.8 MIC)

Nadeau, Robert. **The Environmental Endgame: Mainstream Economics, Ecological Disaster, and Human Survival** / Robert L. Nadeau. New Brunswick, N.J: Rutgers University Press, 2006. (304.28 NAD)

**Popular Culture Studies Across the Curriculum: Essays for Educators** / edited by Ray B. Browne. Jefferson, N.C: McFarland, 2005. (306 POP)

Quester, George H. **Nuclear First Strike: Consequences of a Broken Taboo** / George H.

Quester. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006. (355.0217 QUE)

### Articles

#### **AMERICA'S NEW STRATEGIC PARTNER?**

By Ashton B. Carter. Foreign Affairs, July/August 2006, pp. 33-44.

#### **CORN PLASTIC TO THE RESCUE?**

By Elizabeth Royte. Smithsonian, August 2006. pp. 84-88.

#### **EMERGING GIANTS: BUILDING WORLD-CLASS COMPANIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

By Tarun Khanna and Krishna G. Palepu. Harvard Business Review, October 2006, pp. 60-69.

#### **PLUGGING INTO THE FUTURE**

The Economist Technology Quarterly, June 10, 2006, pp. 30-32.

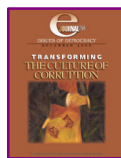
### Electronic Journals



#### **Benefits of Trade: Costs of Protectionism, January 2007**

This issue of *eJournalUSA* includes articles from authors inside and outside the U.S. government describing the benefits of trade and the costs of protectionism.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/ites/0107/ijee/ijee0107.htm>



#### **Transforming the Culture of Corruption, December 2006**

This issue highlights the important roles that the public sector, private sector, and non-governmental organizations play in eradicating corruption, worldwide.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/1206/ijde/ijde1206.htm>

### Events



**Group Discussion on Disability and Ability at the Banyan, Chennai, December 27, 2006**



**Consul for Public Affairs Frederick J. Kaplan interacting with Students at the Library. December 14, 2006**



**Consul General David T. Hopper at the American Corner, Bangalore January 10, 2007**