

Education Philosophy

As an NTU (National Taiwan University) graduate, I was trained in this belief: “real education starts when one leaves the university.”

The philosophy has stuck with me ever since I graduated from NTU. Not an outstanding student while in school, and most likely because of this, I have taken every opportunity I could get afterwards to improve my education both in and out of school. To me, and to most of the Taiwanese students of that generation, education is the key to a youth’s future.

Even today, when I look at some of the impasses of the public education here in Texas, I tend to take the approach which might seem idealistic to some people; however, I do think to myself: what if some of the parents also learn as their child does; what if the teachers put themselves in the students’ position, to experience what the students are experiencing of having to learn several subjects at the same time?

What immediately come to my mind is that we, especially as an educator, must open our hearts and minds.

Not only that I never stopped learning, I also believe that, at least for some people, it is important to have a broad interest in several subjects. Those are the people who will be equipped to relate to different fields readily, to make good judgment, and to be able to explain their justification in understandable and convincing ways. In short, in my opinion, our society needs this group of people to maintain the smoothness of our social functions both in terms of space and time.

In still other words, to me education, including self-education, is a necessity for the vitality of the society. One either has to keep on educating herself, or she needs to be educated to respect education. And I firmly believe the following:

- 1) Now that high-speed internet has made education available anywhere any time, there is no excuse to lay the blame to the lack of education opportunities.
- 2) Availability of public education has been taken for granted and made too easy for the kids that many, including the parents, do not even appreciate the opportunities.
- 3) The public media have a tendency to ridicule education or the system. And until that symptom is cured, those who are responsible for educating the public will be experiencing an everlasting ‘uphill battle’.
- 4) The international community has become so closely knitted that to maintain a genuine interest, curiosity, and respect in something different or foreign is already a must for a citizen to function effectively and internationally.

Being in my sixties, I will dedicate the rest of my life, and take whatever means effective and legal, to make education work, in Texas, as well as in my own native country, which is Taiwan.