

Richard Florida's perspectives on the U.S. educational system

In his latest book, ***The Great Reset: How New Ways of Living and Working Drive Post-Crash Prosperity*** published by Harper (April 27, 2010), Richard Florida observes:

“We've mythologized the histories of entrepreneurs such as [Bill] Gates or Steven Jobs or Michael Dell, constantly retelling the stories of these go-getters starting new businesses in their dorm rooms or garages in their spare time. Yet nobody ever asks the obvious question: Why were they doing those things in their spare time? Why isn't the education system structured so that this kind of activity is the very goal? Humans have always essentially learned by doing. The idea that school is the only, or even the main, source of education is a relatively recent development. We need to understand that classroom education is merely one phase of a continuous process of learning, discovery, and engagement that can occur anywhere and anytime. We need a learning system that fuels, rather than squelches, our collective creativity.”

In my opinion, there is no one else who generates more and more valuable insights concerning the evolution of the U.S. culture than does Richard Florida.

He is the author of previously published bestsellers that include ***The Rise of the Creative Class*** (2003) and ***The Flight of the Creative Class*** (2007). He also serves as the director of the Martin Prosperity Institute and professor of business and creativity at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management. He is also a correspondent to the Atlantic and writes frequently for *The New York Times*, the *Financial Times*, and the *Globe and Mail*. In addition, he is the founder of the Creative Class Group. You are cordially invited to check out the resources at <http://www.creativeclass.com/>.