The purpose of Higher Education

Growing up one is always told college is a necessary step. We prepare for it all through our high school years. However, I don’t recall anyone ever stating officially “the purpose”. Growing up I just assumed it would give me the necessary tools needed in my specific field of work (that which I was trying to learn). Now in college myself, I can appreciate it for many other things.

In my opinion, the purpose of a higher education is both to teach work-related skills as well as it is to help the student grow personally. I believe that one can not be achieved without the other. While in college we take a number of classes all which teach us specific knowledge needed in a work environment. Even though the main purpose is to teach us those skills, indirectly we also learn how to grow as adults. In order to be successful in those classes we must start developing skills such as responsibility and also time management. We are also exposed to many world problems that help us form opinions and interests outside of what we have previously been exposed to. This helps us be more aware and more concerned of the world around us. We grow our own morals and values.

Overall, I believe college is the necessary right of passage for anyone going from highschool into adulthood. You come in with english knowledge in subjects such as english and math but come out with field specific talent. You come in as a child and leave as an adult. All those late nights of studying don’t just help us memorize the subject at hand, they also teach us that in order to be successfull you must put in time and dedication. It also teaches us that if you dont put enough time you wont get good results.

My experience here in CSULA has been short, but during this time I have done a lot of growing. I feel that my teachers have been very efficient in teaching me about my field and not a day goes by I do not learn work-related skills that I know will come in handy in the future. Not only have they taught me the skills, but they give me an example to follow (themselves) and how they have been able to advance in the field with these tactics. Equally as important has been my personal growth. The diversity of people and culture in CSULA is very great and I have interacted with people of all over the world. I have built a great ability to do team work, which is immensely important in any work environment. I have also been exposed to world problems I had no idea even existed. knowing about them gives me a sense of responsibility to stay informed and be a part in finding a solution. CSULA has been very efficient in fulfilling my expectations of what college should be.

To conclude, I will say that if I were surveyed by the Pew Research center I would’ve been with the about 15% that said that both missions are equally important. college education must teach us “work related skills and knowledge” so we can have the skills to help us excel in the working force. Also, a college education must also “help a student grow personally and intellectually” to have the necessary skills to know how to use the knowledge taught in a efficient and responsible way.