Democracy's Education: Public Work, Citizenship, and the Future of Colleges and Universities

by [Harry C. Boyte](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=UTF8&field-author=Harry+C.+Boyte&search-alias=books&text=Harry+C.+Boyte&sort=relevancerank) (Editor)

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Today Americans feel powerless in the face of problems on every front. Such feelings are acute in higher education, where educators experience an avalanche of changes--cost cutting, new technologies, demands that higher education be narrowly geared to the needs of today's workplace. College graduates face mounting debt and uncertain job prospects, and worry about a coarsening of the mass culture and erosion of authentic human relationships. Higher education is increasingly seen, and often portrays itself, as a ticket to individual success - a private good, not a public one.

*Democracy's Education* grows from the American Commonwealth Partnership, a year-long project to revitalize the democratic narrative of higher education invited by the White House to mark the 150th anniversary of land grant colleges, aimed at strengthening higher education as a public good.

Beginning with an essay by Harry C. Boyte, "Reinventing Citizenship as Public Work," which challenges educators and their partners to claim their power to shape the story of higher education and the civic careers of students, the collection brings world-famous scholars, senior government officials, and university presidents together with faculty, students, staff, community organizers, and intellectuals from South Africa and Japan. Contributors describe many constructive responses to change already taking place, in different kinds of institutions, and present cutting edge ideas like "civic science," "civic studies," "citizen professionalism," and "citizen alumni." Authors detail practical approaches to making change, from new faculty and student roles to changes in curriculum and student life and strategies for everyday citizen empowerment. Overall, the work develops a democratic story of education urgently needed to address today's challenges, from climate change to growing inequality.

*Democracy’s Education: Public Work, Citizenship and the Future of Colleges and Universities*, Table of Contents

* Harry C. Boyte, “Reinventing Citizenship as Public Work”
* Democratic narratives:
  + David Mathews (President, Kettering Foundation), “Har Megiddo: A Battle for the Soul of Higher Education”
  + Scott Peters (Co-director, Imagining America), “A Democracy’s College Tradition”
  + Albert Dzur (Bowling Green), “The Democratic Roots of Academic Professionalism”
* Policy makers and presidents as architects of change:
  + Martha Kanter, Under Secretary, US Department of Education 2009-2013, “Democracy’s Future – The Federal Perspective”
  + Nancy Cantor and Peter Englot (Rutgers-Newark), “Reinventing Scholar-Educators as Citizens and Public Workers”
  + Robert Bruininks, Andy Furco, Robert Jones, Jayne K. Sommers and Erin A. Konkle (University of Minnesota), “Institutionalizing Civic Engagement at the University of Minnesota”
  + Judith Ramaley (Portland State University), “Education for a Rapidly Changing World”
  + Adam Weinberg (Denison University), “Preparing Students for Work as Citizens”
* The faculty experience and faculty as agents of change:
  + Maria Avila (CSUDH), “Can a New Culture of Civic Professionalism Flourish?”
  + Rom Coles (NAU) and Blase Scarnati (NAU), “Transformational Ecotones: The Craftsperson Ethos and Higher Education”
  + KerryAnn O'Meara (Maryland), “Dismantling Inequality Regarding Scholarship”
  + Tim Eatman (Co-director, Imagining America), “The Emerging Citizenry of Academe”
* From Citizen Student to Citizen Alum: Students and alumni as agents of change:
  + Jamie Haft (Assistant Director, Imagining America), “Becoming a Civic Artist”
  + Cecilia Orphan (UPenn), “What’s Doctoral Education Have to Do with It?”
  + David Hoffman (UMBC), “Fostering Civic Agency by Making Education (and Ourselves) ‘Real’”
  + Julie Ellison (Michigan), “The Civic Creativity of Alumni”
* Community organizers consider the challenges:
  + Jenny Whitcher (Iliff School of Theology), “Breaking the Civic Spirit – Experiences of Young Organizers”
  + Robert Woodson (Founder, Center for Neighborhood Enterprise), “‘On Tap,’ Not ‘On Top’”
  + Sam Daley-Harris (CEO, Center for Citizen Empowerment and Transformation), “How Can Higher Education Reclaim Its Power?”
* Possible Futures:
  + Benjamin Barber (Founder, Interdependence Day), “Illiberal Education”
  + Peter Levine (Director CIRCLE), “Jobs, Jobs, Jobs – The Economic Impact of Public Work”
  + John Spencer (Founding Director, Delta Center, U Iowa), “Reflections of a Civic Scientist”
  + Shigeo Kodama (Co-Founder, Japan Citizenship Education Forum, University of Tokyo), “Higher Education and Political Citizenship: The Japanese Case”
  + Xolela Mangcu (University of Cape Town, South Africa), “The Promise of Black Consciousness”
  + Lisa Clarke (Social Studies Teacher, Kent Meridian High School), “Teaching as Public Work”
* Summing up–
  + Paul Markham (Gates Foundation), “Organizing Higher Education Between the Times”
  + Harry C. Boyte, “The Soul of Higher Education”

