



Generation Do-It-Yourself: GenDIY



**SET YOURSELF UP
FOR SUCCESS:**
*Stories to inspire you and tools
to get you started.*



PRESENTED BY:



J.A. and KATHRYN
ALBERTSON FAMILY
FOUNDATION



GenDIY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Introduction](#)

[Get Organized](#)

[Focus \(It's Not Forever\) and Dig In](#)

[Build Your Brand, Use Your Network](#)

[Get Work Experience](#)

[Just Keep Learning](#)

[Buck the Quo](#)

[Resources](#)

***Join the
Conversation!***

@Getting_Smart

@JKAF

#GenDIY





INTRODUCTION

There has never been a better time to make a difference. It has never been easier to code a viral app or start a business. It's never been more important to have a college degree but it's never been so expensive. There are a growing number of alternative pathways through high school and postsecondary education but the options are confusing and complicated.

The good news is that you can hack your own education and chart a path to a career you love. [Generation Do-It-Yourself \(GenDIY\)](#) is a campaign is about reimagining secondary and postsecondary education. It's the story of young people charting their own course and the lessons they have learned.

GenDIY is a campaign hosted by nonprofit [edInnovation](#) in partnership with [Getting Smart](#) and with support from the [J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation](#). It includes over 100 stories of young people making their way toward impact-driven and entrepreneurial careers in a global economy. It includes a toolkit for young people and the adults that care about them.

GenDIY Stats and Myths Debunked

Stats



By 2020, 40% of the U.S. workforce will be freelancers or contractors. Jeremy Neuner, CEO and Co-Founder of [NextSpace](#) and contributor to [Quartz](#), [cites several studies](#) that highlight the growth in the ranks of contingent workers.



[Intuit estimates](#) that 80% of large corporations will increase their use of a flexible workforce by 2020.



The most recent [Employee Tenure Summary from the Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) stated that the median number of years that wage and salary workers had been with their current employer was 4.2, as of January 2016.



In a new report titled [Independent Work: Choice, necessity, and the gig economy](#), McKinsey outlined four segments of independent work: free agents, casual earners, reluctants and the financially strapped.

Myths



That gap years are a period of "goof-off time." Andrea Wein, of [Gap to Great](#), helps us debunk a few myths around gap years. She shares, "we're starting to realize the gap year can be so much more (than previously perceived). Researchers Karl Haigler and Rae Nelson have found that well-planned gap time with a strong focus on self-reflection builds three core competencies that are often unseen in peers who went straight through to college."



College is for everyone and you don't need a plan when you go. It's important to identify what options you may have to rethink high school and college. Jennifer Viemont a [contributor to GenDIY](#), mother and founder of [Beyond the States](#) explains the higher education opportunities that exist abroad, while Dr. Robert Mendenhall of [Western Governors University](#) [explains the possibilities](#) of an online or hybrid higher education degree.



Debt is no big deal. Tom Vander Ark, CEO of Getting Smart, believes that there is a new worst-case scenario in America. "If you go to college and you rack up debt and you leave without a degree, that's a disaster," he says. Watch the [True Pursuit Documentary](#) to learn more.

With the overflow of information and options that exists, how do we prepare young adults to either skill up or get creative? Generation Do-It-Yourself or #GenDIY is an ongoing campaign and aggregator of resources, tools, digital media and first-hand stories from other GenDIYers as they navigate their own pathways.

GET ORGANIZED

Get yourself in the GenDIY mindset, build your plan based on informed decisions and boost your likelihood of success by getting organized to best manage yourself and your time.

Building an innovative mindset (or as we call it, a GenDIY mindset) can be a hard skill to teach. Over the past year, we spent time asking contributors what they did to personally build their own and we have a list of suggestions to start your journey toward cultivating a GenDIY mindset.



Dr. Cary J. Green shares the following questions to help you determine your personal priorities. You can write these down but do not need to share them with anyone. These are for your own personal use to determine what matters to you most.

- What are your values? (Things that are important to you.)
- What are your goals? (These can be school or work related.)
- What are your responsibilities? (What do you have to accomplish or take care of?)
- What is the impact of the activity? (How important is the task at hand?)

To get organized while beginning on your own pathway, Teacher **Matt Schultz** has a few [recommendations](#):

- Conquer your fear of inexperience
- Take the risk of responsibility
- Step outside your comfort zone while exploring career opportunities
- Take time to tinker
- Recognize chances to seize a new opportunity





Dhruv Govil, of Sony Pictures Imageworks, offers three tips for being your own superhero:

Don't let the doubters hold you back. If you know you want to do something, go for it.

1

Whatever you do, give it all you have. Life's too short to go halfway.

2

Appreciate everyone who supported you along the way.

3



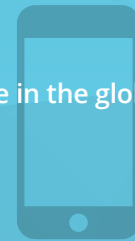
Gayle Allen interviewed four Thiel Fellows and asked what helped build their own entrepreneurial mindset. Their responses included:

- Intentional curiosity
- A bias towards action
- Self-directed learning
- Creative confidence

Intuit released a recent report titled Twenty Trends That Will Shape The Next Decade and the predictions include demographic, social, economic, and technology trends. #GenDIYers will lead the charge on most of these trends. That will require them to have an understanding of where the world is heading and how they can prepare to meet the challenges presented to them along the way.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS:

1. Digital savvy kids will grow up and change everything
2. Baby boomers gray, but they don't slow down
3. It's a she-economy: women will prove to be a dominate force in the global market
4. Cultural fusion brings global tastes to local markets
5. Economic opportunities fuels urban living
6. Social networks fuel the participatory economy
7. Localism creates a new way of life
8. Individuals shoulder the risk burden
9. Customers control the relationship
10. Industrializing countries emerge as the new engines for global growth
11. You no longer need cash to start a business
12. Sustainability becomes a competitive requirement
13. Health and wellness spending soar
14. Work shifts from full-time to free agent employment
15. Niche markets flourish in the new economy
16. Small businesses and global giants form a barbell economy
17. Working in the cloud becomes nearly universal
18. Data is critical for competitive advantage
19. Social and mobile computing connect and change the world
20. Smart machines get smarter



GETTING SMART



PODCAST

In this episode of the Getting Smart Podcast, GPS Education Partners, a Milwaukee-based accelerated technical education program, joins our team at the iNACOL Symposium to share how they are assisting students in Wisconsin to graduate with their diploma, industry credentials and transferable post-secondary college credits.

FOCUS (IT'S NOT FOREVER) AND DIG IN



Spend time thinking about what you're good at, what you care about and what the world needs—then roll up your sleeves and get to it!

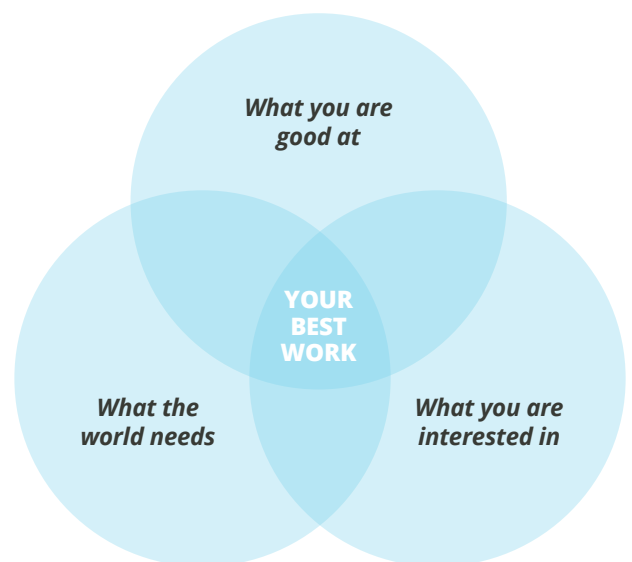
The truth is that most people who have been working for a significant period of time still ask themselves every day, "what do I want to be when I grow up?" The important part of the process is to start.

Your Best Work

The graph to the right is one way to sort out your interests and help you align yourself to a career or at minimum a near-term project. Your best work often times is found at the intersection of skill, passion and value.

Questions to ask yourself:

1. What issues are affecting you directly?
(What are you interested in?)
2. What topics occurring on a national or global scale seem of interest to you?
(What does the world need?)
3. In what field or area of work do you think you might have a natural talent to make an immediate difference?
(What are you good at?)



Digging In

In a recent [Getting Smart podcast](#), Michael Moe, Co-Founder of [GSV](#), discusses their newly released [2020 report](#) (a book and microsite) with the knowledge that to restore the fabric of the United States, everybody needs an equal opportunity to participate in the future. This vision is based on a dozen mega trends that are creating new opportunities.

NEW SYSTEM



Credit: [GSV 2020 Vision: A History of the Future](#)

What we are seeing across the board is a general consensus that learning and working is changing rapidly. The report goes on to describe how the world is being transformed by lifelong learning—a new opportunity to ensure that everyone has equal opportunity to participate in the future. They believe the old model of go to school, get a degree and secure a job is over with.

Parminder K. Jassal, of the [ACT Foundation](#), explains that work experience can equip people with foundational employability skills, like teamwork abilities and professionalism, while providing them an opportunity to explore and prepare for career options in the workplace. Your first job most likely will not be your last, but each position at every company will provide a learning experience.

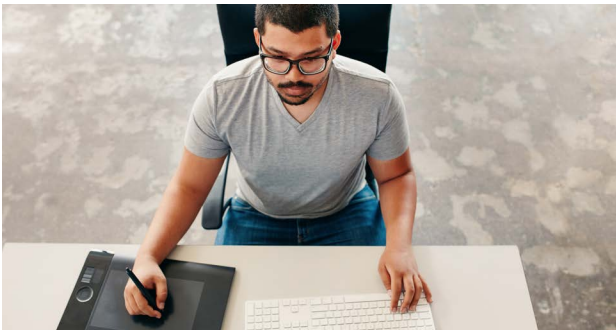
Jassal sites a [recent report](#) by Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce: **"a job is more powerful as an educational tool when it provides exploratory learning that supplements or complements a student's field of study."**



A gap year is a structured and intentional time away from formalized education—typically taken between high school graduation and the freshman year of college. In a recent podcast, we interviewed Andrea Wien, the author of [Gap to Great: A Parent's Guide to the Gap Year](#) and the founder of [Gap to Great](#), the world's first global gap year community.

BUILD YOUR BRAND, USE YOUR NETWORK

It's time to take all those great relationships you've formed and build a network. Take steps to ensure an online search of your name shows who you are and what you know.



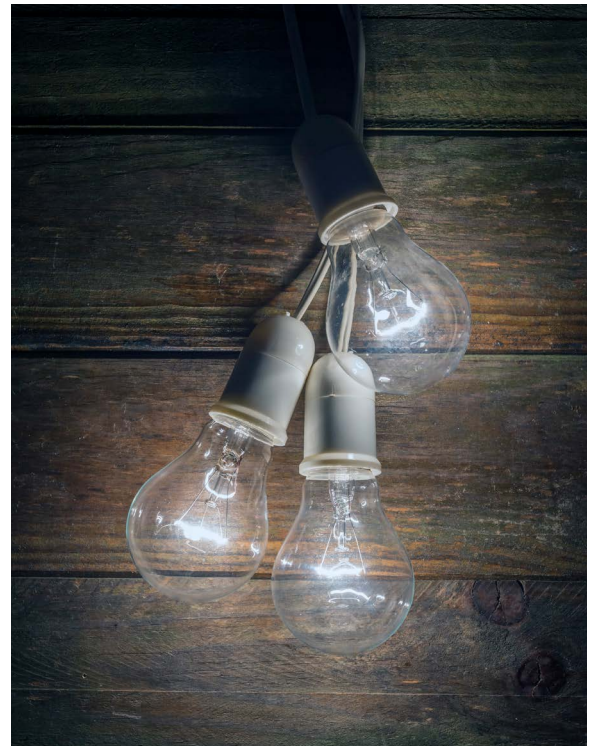
Personal Branding

“What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.” **Haley Osborn, indie author and contributing blogger at [EssayTigers.com](https://www.essaytigers.com)**, quotes Henry David Thoreau to make the point that who you are becoming along your journey is what matters.

When employers are looking for talent, many times what will end up getting you in the door will be your experiences as a whole (backed by the necessary skills to perform the job). Building a wide array of experiences can serve both as a personal driving factor to diversify your background but also be a great way to showcase what you are interested in. [Osborn provides examples of how to build your own personal brand](#):

- Build a social media identity with a website and blog
- Have the right conversations
- Share relevant and interesting content
- Have a presence both online and in person
- Build professional relationships
- Manage and grow your reputation
- Join communities both in person and online

It's important to show what you know and also how you are able to present it in a creative way. ***How are you approaching your personal and professional calling?***





Building Your Personal Mission Statement

Writing your own personal mission statement can take many different forms and it is different for everyone—it can be longer, shorter, more specific, or more vague than others' statements. This is also an ever-changing statement and is not set in stone, but it helps others to know what to look to you for and keeps you aligned with your own mission and goals.

In this [Fast Company article](#), author Bill Arruda offers a template that links together three elements: the value you create + who you're creating it for + the expected outcome.

[Adam Smiley Poswolsky](#) is the author of [Quarter Life Breakthrough](#). Along his journey to write the book he captured practical advice, interviewed people he admired and began helping others find work that they care deeply about. Smiley shares **10 simple steps** to help GenDIYers to have their own quarter-life breakthroughs and find meaningful work:

1. Treat your career like a learning experiment: every opportunity is a chance to discover what works and what doesn't work for you.
2. Move beyond FOMO: stop comparing yourself to your friends on Facebook.
3. Embrace fear: fear should be a green light, not a red light.
4. Align your gifts with the impact you want to have.
5. Only go to grad school if you really want to go (not because your parents want you to go).
6. Go outside your comfort zone.
7. Plan your breakthrough.
8. Build your support system.
9. Re-define success on your own terms.
10. Share your story so others can get inspired too.

Utilizing Mentors

There is a strategy for selecting a personal board of directors—this includes choosing individuals that can support you through making decisions in both your personal and professional life. Mentors are the ones who can assist you in setting processes to follow and can highlight areas of improvement. Carl Dorvil, CEO of Group Excellence Holdings and Managing Partner of VICAR Capital Advisors, **shares a selection criteria for choosing your own personal board of directors:**

- Create a diverse board: have members from different background and different fields.
- Have virtual board members: know that you can connect remotely with your board members.
- Invest in your board: Set regular and recurring meetings to ensure that you are reaching set benchmarks.
- Always be looking for new members: As you expand your network, you will find that you'll need new mentors to help you achieve.



In addition to self-selecting a personal board of directors, there are many ways to participate in organized mentorship programs. **The Opportunity Network** and **iMentor** are great examples of programs that support individuals such as **Maftuna Saidova**. She started as a high school student struggling to learn English and mentorship transformed her into a first-generation college student. Saidova shares specific examples of what she learned through her experience with her mentor Nan.

1. Mentors believe in you, even when you don't believe in yourself.
2. It is important to advocate for yourself.
3. When you open yourself to the unknown, you also open yourself to opportunities.

Digital Portfolios and Measuring Informal learning

Your digital identity now can carry as much weight as your first impression in person. **Heather Hiles, CEO of Pathbrite, shares her advice: “a portfolio is more powerful than a thousand words.”** It is the best mechanism for differentiating people and what they can do. I encourage anyone serious about breaking through the clutter to start curating their careers and collecting evidence of their skills and abilities in a portfolio. It's one of the most enduring ways of communicating and customizing what you know to multiple audiences in both private and public ways.”

Digital portfolios will make it easier to exemplify informal and lifelong learning. **David Blake, an EdTech enthusiast and founder of Degreed,** founded the platform to support the rising generation of learners as they progress within their careers, and as they increasingly look beyond formal education to acquire, develop and sharpen new skills. Blake says, **“despite the fact that learning is happening in every way and everywhere, keeping track of it all, measuring it and making it count is not happening for the most part. And it should.”**





GET WORK EXPERIENCE

Maximize your ROI by seeking internships, apprenticeships and on-the-job training that do double duty of building your skills and getting your foot in the door.

Even the best colleges might not teach you everything you need to know and be able to do to get a decent job. **Top employers receive 250 job applications for every opening**, but 45% of U.S. employers say a **skills shortage** is a leading reason for entry-level vacancies. After a candidate is hired, many employers experience a high percentage of mistakes. Were they looking at the wrong characteristics?



- ✓ WORK ETHIC
- ✓ TEAMWORK
- ✓ DECISION MAKING
- ✓ CRITICAL THINKING

A 2013 **Business Council CEO survey** found **work ethic (96%), teamwork (94%), decision making (91%) and critical thinking (90%)** to be most in demand skills—but they can be tough to spot.



Employers are looking for these skills but not finding them in candidates, according to Jeffrey Selingo, who is the author of **[There Is Life After College: What Parents and Students Should Know About Navigating School to Prepare for the Jobs of Tomorrow](#)**. Employers really want “critical thinking, the ability to manage multiple projects, communication [and] problem-solving,” **[said Selingo](#)**.

Koru, a Seattle-based startup, has identified a similar list of seven “impact skills” that are, according to Koru co-founder Josh Jarrett, what employers need from early career talent and are predictive of job performance. Smarts and technical skills aren’t enough. “Grit matters more than grades,” said Jarrett. The **“Koru7 Impact Skills”** include characteristics that matter most to employers. According to Koru, these are: grit, rigor, impact, teamwork, curiosity, ownership and polish.



“The most important thing students can do in college is have experiential learning: internships, service learning, apprenticeships, study abroad,” according to Selingo. He added that work experience is more important than anything students will do in the classroom.

Great work experiences can start in high school. **NAF, a network of about 800 career academies**, requires all students to participate in internships. At NAF, “[w]ork-based learning is designed as a continuum of experiences beginning with career awareness activities, progressing to career exploration activities, and culminating in career activities, including internships,” **said Andrew Rothstein**. (See [NAFtrack](#) certification system.)



The bottom line for young people: get work experience whenever, wherever you can; document it with artifacts and build references.

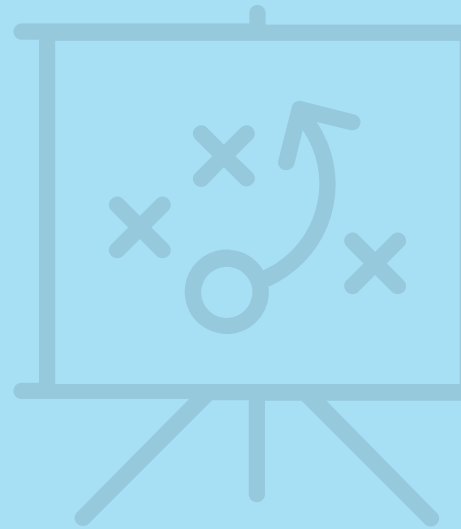
Make sure you include evidence of those “impact skills.” Customize each resume you send away (make sure it’s scannable)—you have about **six seconds to make an impression**.



Last October we attended the [24 Hour Think Challenge](#), where, with support from [One Stone](#) and [The J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation](#), 150 high school juniors from Idaho rallied around the theme of reimagining education. Hear more about the emerging options for students navigating life [on this podcast](#).

Carri Schneider, Director at Getting Smart, shares with us 22 ways to make the most out of your job or internship:

1. Go in with a game plan.
2. Get to know your direct supervisor.
3. Don't expect to steer the ship.
4. Being an intern or working entry-level means keeping your ego in check—especially in the beginning.
5. Seek opportunities to listen and learn.
6. Meet people.
7. Prove yourself.
8. Take initiative.
9. Keep it professional.
10. Pick a project (or two).
11. Keep your attitude in check.
12. Get comfortable with constructive criticism.
13. Ask questions.
14. Follow work culture norms.
15. Build your network at every turn.
16. Practice saying “Yes.”
17. Reflect on your experience as you go.
18. Put yourself out there.
19. Show your gratitude.
20. Schedule an exit interview.
21. Plan your next internship or job.
22. Stay in touch.





JUST KEEP LEARNING

Stay curious. Listen to podcasts. Talk to strangers. Watch eye-opening online videos from deep thinkers and experts. Download a learning app. Take an art class. And, above all else, keep an open mind.



Informal and lifelong learning is imperative for personal growth. Using technology, you can access unlimited amounts of information to learn any necessary facts or skills. This past year, we been cataloging must-know books, shows and opportunities for your bookmark bar, Moleskine and Notes app.

We survived graduating amidst the recession, we came of age with digital and social media and these are just some of the many things that have worked for us. What would you add?



WHAT TO READ

- [The Quarter Life Breakthrough](#) by Adam Smiley Poswolsky
- [Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead](#) by Brené Brown
- [GOOD](#), a magazine for the global citizen
- [Thrive](#) by Arianna Huffington
- [The War of Art](#) by Steven Pressfield (and sequel [Turning Pro](#))
- [The Circle](#) by Dave Eggers
- [Just Kids](#) by Patti Smith
- [Don't Worry, It Gets Worse: One Twentysomething's \(Mostly Failed\) Attempts at Adulthood](#) by Alida Nugent
- [Write Out Loud: Use the Story To College Method, Write Great Application Essays, and Get into Your Top Choice College](#) by Carol Barash
- [The Promise of a Pencil: How an Ordinary Person Can Create Extraordinary Change](#) by Adam Braun
- [Do Cool Sh*t](#) by Miki Agrawal
- [Delivering Happiness](#) by Tony Hsieh
- [Pour Your Heart Into It: How Starbucks Built a Company One Cup at a Time](#) by Howard Schultz
- [Outliers](#) by Malcolm Gladwell
- [Vagabonding: An Uncommon Guide to the Art of Long-Term World Travel](#) by Rolf Potts
- [4 Hour Work Week](#) by Tim Ferriss
- [50 Ways to Excel at Your First Job \(And in Life\)](#) by Antonio Neves



WHAT TO WATCH

- [Roadtrip Nation](#): 11 seasons and counting! Watch the leader interviews.
- [THNKR](#): Improve your speaking skills—watch the [PODIUM](#) series.
- [Solve for X](#): Radical technology ideas for solving global problems (aka Moonshots).
- [Idea Channel](#): PBS show that examines connections between pop culture, tech and art.
- [VICE](#): Correspondents cover stories often overlooked by traditional media outlets.



WHAT TO LISTEN TO

- [TED Radio Hour](#): An hour-long podcast exploring the ideas of TEDTalks from around the world.
- [Moth Radio Hour](#): Features the tales and stories behind stories from The Moth stories.
- [Millennial Podcast](#): A podcast that details what it's like to be a present-day millennial.
- [StartUp](#): Entertaining and educational content relating to launching your own business.
- [Freakonomics](#): Based on the book from economist Steven D. Levitt and author Stephen J. Dubner.



WHAT TO LISTEN TO

- [On Being](#): Host Krista Tippett brings on one guest each week for an honest, informative and often gritty interview.
- [The Dave Ramsey Show](#): Very accessible show to help listeners manage money.
- [Ben Greenfield Fitness](#): For your wellness, because everyone needs a free personal trainer.
- [99% Invisible](#): Reminds you that the world is full of unbelievable things.
- [School of Greatness](#): Business coach Lewis Howes's top-rated podcast in which he interviews inspiring business minded entrepreneurs.
- [Tim Ferriss Show](#): The #1 ranked business podcast on iTunes.
- [WTF with Marc Maron](#): Revelatory conversations with iconic personalities.



HACK THE TRADITIONAL HIGHER ED EXPERIENCE

- [Minerva Schools](#): A new model of higher education where you live and work in seven cities across the world.
- [UnCollege](#): Provides gap year programs for young adults who want to drive their own educations.
- [Udemy](#) and [Skillsoft](#): Informal online learning markets.
- [General Assembly](#): Specializes in tech, design and management.
- [Udacity](#): Offers nano-degrees in web design and mobile app development.
- [The Flatiron School](#): Prepares students for careers in web and iOS development.
- [2U](#): Partners with some of the world's leading colleges and universities to offer online graduate degree programs to students everywhere.
- [EdX](#): Free online courses from the world's best universities.



BOOTCAMPS, FELLOWSHIPS, PROGRAMS, INCUBATORS

- [AmeriCorps VISTA](#): One year, paid national service, building capacity with a nonprofit.
- [The Passion Co](#): Participate in an in-person, community-based program to find and launch your passion.
- [Venture for America](#): Build companies and revitalize cities through entrepreneurship.
- [Unreasonable Institute](#): Incubator, 10–20 entrepreneurs live under the same roof for 4–5 weeks.
- [Peace Corps](#): Volunteer and travel overseas to make a difference in the lives of real people.
- [Millennial Trains Project](#): Crowdfunded transcontinental train journeys for young innovators to explore America's frontiers.
- [4.0 Startup Weekend Education](#): 54-hour events for developers, designers, marketers, product managers and startup enthusiasts to share ideas, form teams, build products and launch startups.
- [TechStars](#): Provides \$118,000 in seed funding, intensive mentorship and an amazing network of mentors and alumni in exchange for 7–10% equity in your company.
- [Sundance Stories of Change Impact Lab](#): Story-based opportunities for leading social entrepreneurs and outstanding documentary filmmakers to collaborate and accelerate progress on key global issues.



ENTREPRENEURIAL NETWORKS/ORGANIZATIONS

- [Kairos Society](#): Network for entrepreneurs under 25.
- [Hive](#): A global community of CEOs, leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs from 95 countries.
- [StartlingBloc](#): Five-day workshop for change leaders and social innovators.
- [Unreasonable Institute](#): Unites entrepreneurs with the potential to address major problems at scale.
- [The Dorm Room Fund](#): Investment fund run by students, investing in students.
- [Echoing Green](#): Launching pad and fellowship program for social entrepreneurs.
- [Young Entrepreneur Council](#): Recently released a project called [#StartupLab](#), designed to help young entrepreneurs achieve their goals.



GETTING SMART



PODCAST

*Micro-credentials and badging have transformed the professional learning landscape for teachers. Recently we've even gone as far as saying that micro-credentials are the future of professional learning. In the corporate space, *Intrepid Learning* calls the shift "Collaborative Learning at Scale," which includes a mobile-first environment, short-form content delivered anytime and anywhere, social components, gamification for motivation and opportunities to demonstrate learning. [Listen to this podcast](#) to learn more about this shift in professional development.*

BUCK THE QUO

There is a new campaign for Idaho teens that is highlighting alternative pathways outside of the two traditional paths of a four-year degree or low-paying job. Buck the Quo is showing that there is more—in their video series they showcase trade schools, apprenticeships, one-year degrees and two-year degrees.



CATCH BUCK THE QUO EPISODES



The stress of paying for college is very real for most Americans, and many are beginning to wonder whether college is really worth it. Teens dig into the numbers and weigh the personal and professional reasons why a person should or should not go to school.

Talking about the future

Want to ask your own teen about their future? Buck the Quo Conversation Starters are a great place to start:

- What kind of life do you want to live?
- How do you feel about your future?
- What do you wish I knew about your future?
- How do you want to live your life?
- Do you have one interest or passion—or many?
- How can we learn more about your interests?
- How will you continue your learning after high school?
- How will you achieve your dreams?
- How can I help?



Have you ever thought about a profession in building robots? Jen discusses having an nontraditional pathway to a career in making (building robots), the rise of DIY culture and the importance of staying hungry and learning new things every day.

RESOURCES

Blogs

- Dorvil, Carl, [Five Rules for Selecting Your Personal Board of Directors](#)
- Govil, Dhruv, [How to be the Superhero in Your Own Movie](#)
- Hiles, Heather, [Goodbye Resumes, Hello Digital Portfolios](#)
- Hofherr, Justine, [Why So Many College Graduates Struggle to Launch a Career, According to an Education Author](#)
- Mendenhall, Dr. Robert, [Earning a Degree Online, What You Need to Know](#)
- Neuner, Jeremy, [40 Percent of America's Workforce Will Be Freelancers by 2020](#)
- Osborn, Haley & Wedgwood, Catherine, [Build Your Brand: How a Positive Social Media Presence Can Lead to a Career](#)
- Rothstein, Andrew, [Creative Strategies for Finding and Creating Internships](#)
- Saidova, Maftuna, [Utilizing Mentors When They Are Needed Most](#)
- Schneider, Carri, [22 Ways to Make the Most of Your Job or Internship](#)
- Schultz, Matt, [Take Charge of Your Learning: Passions and Career Interests Will Follow](#)
- Sullivan, Dr. John, [Why You Can't Get a Job . . . Recruiting Explained By the Numbers](#)
- Vander Ark, Katie & Nakatsu, Tyler [50 Things Millennials Must Read, Watch, Listen to and Know About](#)
- Vander Ark, Tom, [Micro-credentials: The Future of Professional Learning](#)
- Viemont, Jennifer, [Free College Abroad: Strategies for Student Success](#)
- Vozza, Stephanie, [Personal Mission Statements of 5 Famous CEOs \(And Why You Should Write One Too\)](#)

Books and Magazines

- Agrawal, Miki, [Do Cool Sh*t](#)
- Barash, Carol, [Write Out Loud: Use the Story To College Method, Write Great Application Essays, and Get into Your Top Choice College](#)
- Braun, Adam, [The Promise of a Pencil: How an Ordinary Person Can Create Extraordinary Change](#)
- Ferris, Tim, [4 Hour Work Week](#)
- Gladwell, Malcolm, [Outliers](#)
- Hsieh, Tony, [Delivering Happiness](#)
- Huffington, Arianna, [Thrive: The Third Metric to Redefining Success and Creating a Life of Well-Being, Wisdom, and Wonder](#)
- Neves, Antonio, [50 Ways to Excel at Your First Job](#)
- Nugent, Alida, [Don't Worry, It Gets Worse: One Twentysomething's \(Mostly Failed\) Attempts at Adulthood](#)
- Poswolsky, Adam Smiley, <http://www.thequarterlifebreakthrough.com/>
- Potts, Rolf, [Vagabonding: An Uncommon Guide to the Art of Long-Term World Travel](#)
- Pressfield, Steven, [The War of Art](#)
- Schultz, Howard, [Pour Your Heart Into It: How Starbucks Built a Company One Cup at a Time](#)
- Selingo, Jeffrey, [There is a Life After College: What Parents and Students Should Know About Navigating School to Prepare for the Jobs of Tomorrow](#)
- Smith, Patti, [Just Kids](#)

RESOURCES

Media and TV

- [Buck the Quo YouTube Channel](#)
- [Idea Channel](#)
- [PODIUM](#)
- [Roadtrip Nation](#)
- [Solve for X](#)
- [THNKR](#)
- [VICE](#)

Reports and White Papers

- Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Employee Tenure Summary](#)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Workers on Flexible and Shift Schedules in May 2014](#)
- Business Council, [CEO Survey Results](#)
- Georgetown University, [Learning While Earning: The New Normal](#)
- GSV, 2020 Vision: [A History of the Future](#)
- Intuit, [Intuit 2020 Report: Twenty Trends That Will Shape the Next Decade](#)
- McKinsey & Co., [Education to Employment: Designing a System that Works](#)
- McKinsey & Co., [Independent Work: Choice, Necessity and the Gig Economy](#)

Programs and Companies Referenced

- [2U](#)
- [4.0 Startup Weekend Education](#)
- [AmeriCorps VISTA](#)
- [BrightBytes](#)
- [Buck the Quo](#)
- [Degreed](#)
- [Dorm Room Fund](#)
- [EdX](#)
- [Echoing Green](#)
- [Essay Tigers](#)
- [The Flatiron School](#)
- [Gap to Great](#)
- [General Assembly](#)
- [Getting Smart](#)
- [GOOD](#)
- [GPS Education Partners](#)
- [Hive](#)
- [iMentor](#)
- [Intrepid Learning](#)
- [Kairos Society](#)
- [Koru](#)
- [Millennial Trains Project](#)
- [Minerva Schools](#)
- [NAF](#)
- [One Stone](#)
- [Opportunity Network](#)
- [Peace Corps](#)
- [Passion Co](#)
- [Pathbrite](#)
- [Skillsoft](#)
- [StartlingBloc](#)
- [#StartupLab](#)
- [Sundance Stories of Change Impact Lab](#)
- [TechStars](#)
- [Udacity](#)
- [Udemy](#)
- [UnCollege](#)
- [Unreasonable Institute](#)
- [Venture for America](#)
- [Young Entrepreneur Council](#)
- [Washington Governors Univ.](#)

Podcasts

- [Getting Smart](#)
- [TED Radio Hour](#)
- [Moth Radio Hour](#)
- [Millennial Podcast](#)
- [StartUp](#)
- [Freakonomics](#)
- [On Being](#)
- [The Dave Ramsey Show](#)
- [Ben Greenfield Fitness](#)
- [99% Invisible](#)
- [School of Greatness](#)
- [Tim Ferriss](#)
- [WTF with Marc Maron](#)