

Current Strategy

My Community Investment

- Pro-bono investment into individual students and young adults in RVA (i.e. gratis mentoring)
- Guest lecturing at college classes
- Presentations to other various audiences (e.g. UR Lifelong Learning Institute Faculty)

Individual Practice

- Individuals or parents hire me to mentor and coach young adults with this process one-on-one
- Operate through Lichtenberg Consulting, LLC
- Desire to formally affiliate with a local university (University of Richmond or VCU)

Proposed Pilot Program

- Proposed pilot at a 4-year university to run 6-12 undergraduate students through a two-year program
- Similar to the *Preparing the Future Professional* graduate class introduced at Virginia Tech
- Does not need to be a for-credit class, but could be with Virginia Tech precedent

Research & Development

- Review and test strategies to determine if methods employed are accomplishing desired aim short term
- Track students longitudinally to record long term results
- Continue to research changing sociological factors affecting young adult development and societal trajectory
- Contributions to identity formation field – possibility of working on MS and/or PhD through this process

Future Community Participation & Investment

- Academic community – house program in sanctioned environment with access to students or post-college young adults
- Business community – monetary investment and mentors to build relationships with students
- Needed investment by elder generations into young adults

Key Points

The Individual

The Millennial generation is taking longer to mature and fully transition into “adult roles”

- Extended Adolescence or Emerging Adulthood
- The crux is identity formation – happening later or not at all
- Stable coherent identities needed to make commitments and decisions for adulthood
- This stagnated development is becoming more normative

Society

Our culture is posing more challenges resulting in acute identity problems for all adults

- Overabundance of options “Paradox of Choice”
- America one of the most anxious, depressed nations on the face of the planet
- Bombardment of information
- Technology fundamentally altering the way we digest information, changing human relationships, our brains, and how we perceive of our world
- Faster rate of change
- Parental good-intentions producing poor results (dependent adult children)
- Changing worldwide economics
- Fractured societal values

Increasing Need

More students (main-stream) are floundering and silently crying out for help

- Students and young adults falling through the cracks, more normative and not just fringe students
- Young adults are having difficulty sorting through their options and making life-long decisions/commitments
- Tremendously high levels of anxiety, depression, anger, medication use, etc.
- Young adults asking for help need “*developmental individualization*” guidance or structure

Solution

A developmental individualization process/program: few are addressing from psycho-social view

- Helping students figure out who they are to help them make decisions and commitments
- Very few (if any) are approaching the generation in this comprehensive manner
- Taking into account human developmental needs and societal changes
- Must have heavy mentoring component
- I have not seen any university or high school truly addressing the core issue
- Help students make transition from education to career

Opportunity

A huge opportunity for a university to address this issue head on

- This problem is not going away
- Attractive to parents
- Students desire more help/guidance
- Getting community involved (commerce & local business)
- Key is building a bridge between educational institutions and the marketplace