

## **The Great Education Debate - Classical Theory/Content Mastery or Vocational Arts/Applied Education**

### **A Third Hybrid Education Model Emerges Called Vo Ag**

"In vocational agriculture education application of learning is held very high in the list of methods and techniques employed. Abstract thinking is held to a minimum, and any plan of instruction should give considering to the important principle of learning. **If reading assignments are made, if problem solving is being taught, it is best always to bring in some practical applications which will give meaning and justification to the learning.**"

A guide to Vocational Instructional Practice  
1954 American Technical Society Chicago, Illinois

### **Why The Vocational Technical Model**

"The classical notion, that college is the Pinnacle of attainment for all, overshadows the efforts being made to provide for those who neither aspire to, nor can achieve at, the collegiate level. An excellent plumber is infinitely more admirable than an incompetent philosopher. The society which scorns excellence in plumbing because it is a humble activity and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because it is an exalted activity will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy. When educators recognize this and communicate the needs of educating to both putting forth future plumbers and future philosophers, they will earn the right to stand between both cultures"

Vocational Education's Social and Behavioral Perspectives DE Heath 1971

### **About The College Preparatory Model**

"Triggering the educational reform movement in education are the increasingly high dropout and literacy rates, along with employers, criticism that schools are **delivering workers who lack problem-solving abilities, higher order thinking skills, and communicating/employability skills all crucial for work in a global economy.** Academic programs suffer criticism for providing curriculum that lacks participatory forms of learning and opportunities for students to connect learning to "real world events." They face increased graduating requirements with external pressures for accountability."

Integrating Vocational Education

Bettina Lankard 1992