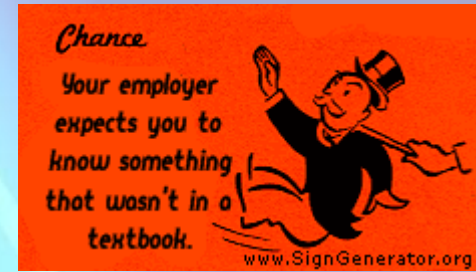




# THE ENGAGED CAMPUS

## Civic Engagement Teaches Workplace Skills

If workforce development is one of the goals of higher education, then civic engagement is important to the development of effective employees. Educational experiences that connect students with their community help to develop a wide variety of personal qualities and information-based skills.



Employers nationwide say colleges and universities should place more emphasis on helping students develop key skills: effective oral/written communications (89%), critical thinking/analytical reasoning (81%), knowledge and skills applied to real world settings (79%), and teamwork/ability to collaborate (71%)<sup>1</sup> Service-learning can effectively develop these skills.<sup>2</sup>

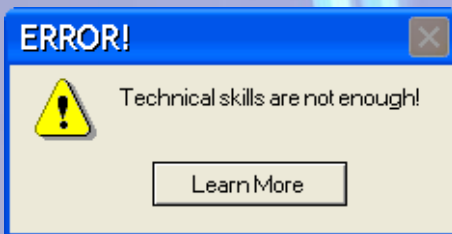


Image: atom.smasher.org

Employers identified internships or community-based projects as the best evidence of college graduates' skills and knowledge.<sup>3</sup> Minnesota State Colleges and Universities leaders' interviews with 352 business executive across Minnesota yielded a recommendation that campuses offer students more experiential learning opportunities.<sup>4</sup>

Census data shows "strong positive correlations . . . between civic engagement and resilience against unemployment. States and localities with more civic engagement in 2006 saw less growth in unemployment between 2006 and 2010. This was true even after adjusting for the economic factors that others have found to predict unemployment rates over this period."<sup>5</sup> Campus-community partnerships help create the skills, trust, and connections that may explain this pattern.



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Workers will be changing jobs more often. Ninety-one percent of Millennials (born between 1977-1997) expect to stay in a job for less than three years. That means they would have 15 – 20 jobs over the course of their working lives.<sup>6</sup> The skills formerly known as "soft skills," are now the critical core skills that are transportable across a career. Many of those 15-20 jobs don't even have titles that exist today.<sup>7</sup>

### Sources

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