THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

DOUG MCKENNA

UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR

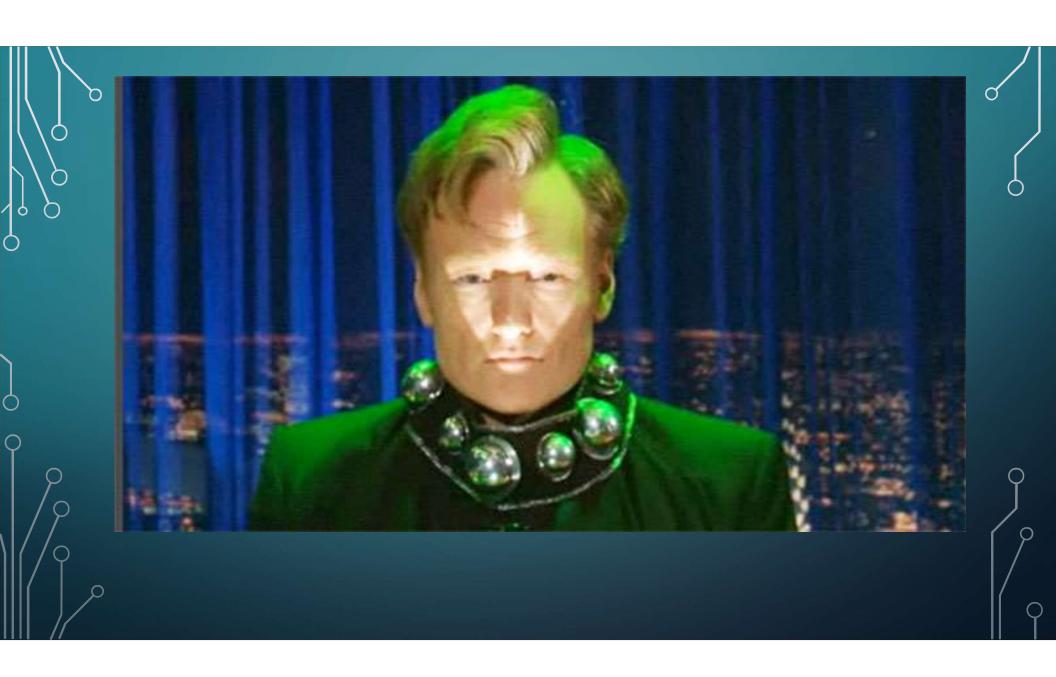
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

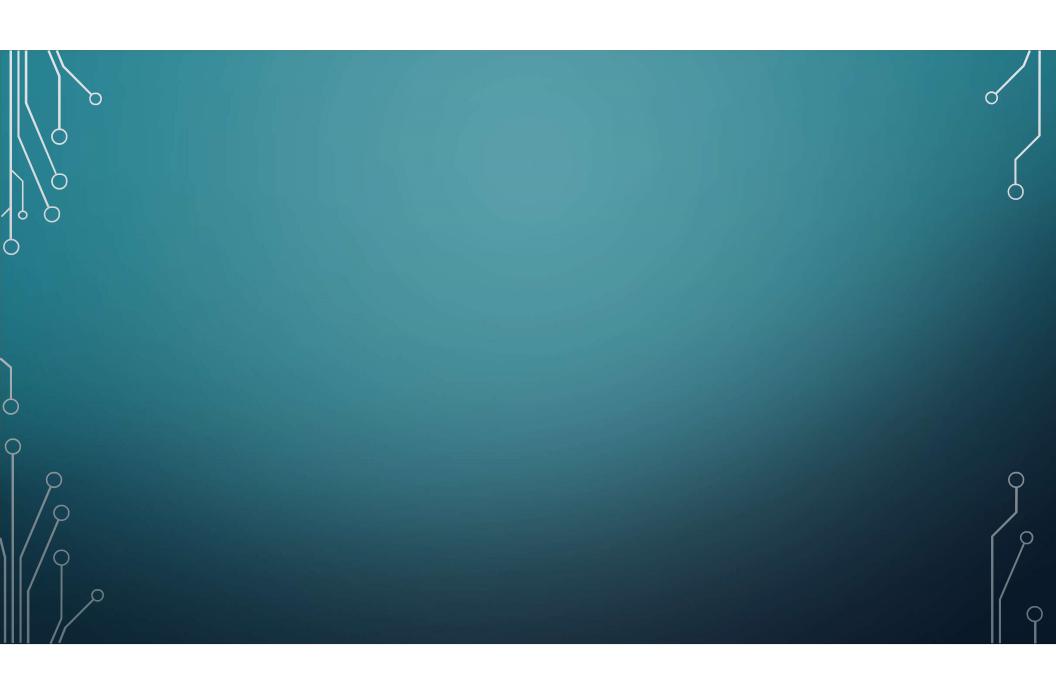
THE FUTURE OF HICHER EDUCATION LIFELONG

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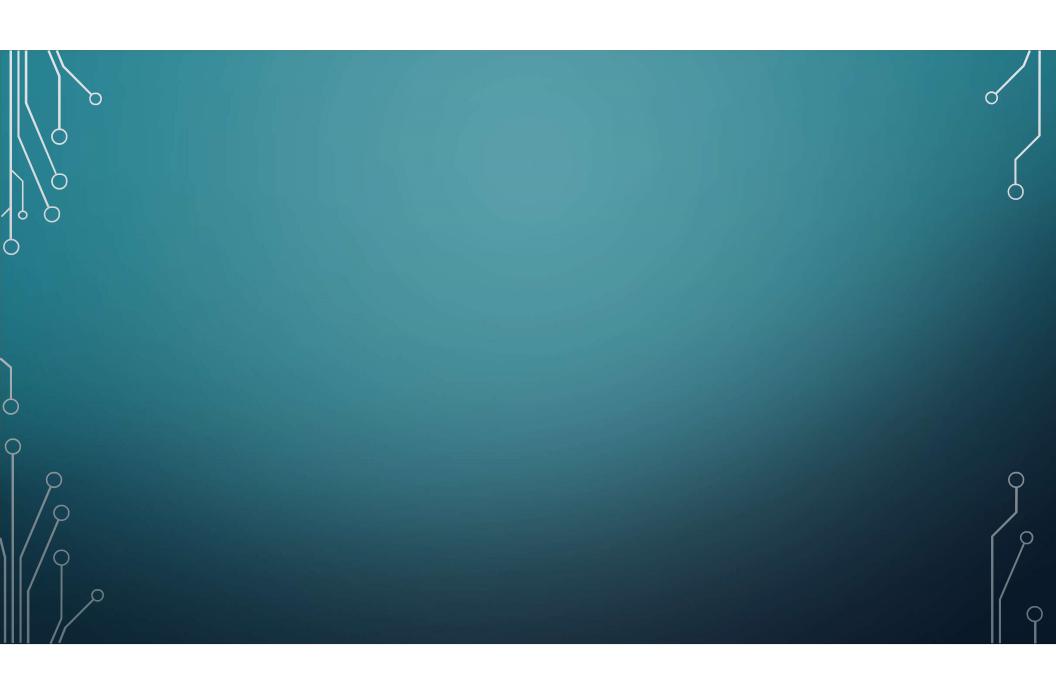




We all know your idea is crazy. The question is whether it is crazy enough.

— Niels Bohr —

AZ QUOTES



THE FUTURE STATE

Societal Changes

• Funding; Access; Representation

Modular-ization of Programs of Study

• Individually tailored courses of study

Interoperability of Credentials

• Representing learning outcomes

Technology

• Pervasive and integrated

WHAT ISN'T CHANGING

- There will still be students, though they will almost universally be called "Learners"
- There will still be faculty to teach, write, research, and create knowledge
- There will still be administrators (Yay!)



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SOCIETAL PREREQUISITES

Some pretty major things need to change to support the future of lifelong education

- Funding Model:
 - Lifelong education will be fully funded for all
 - How?
 - Taxes
 - Private / Public partnerships

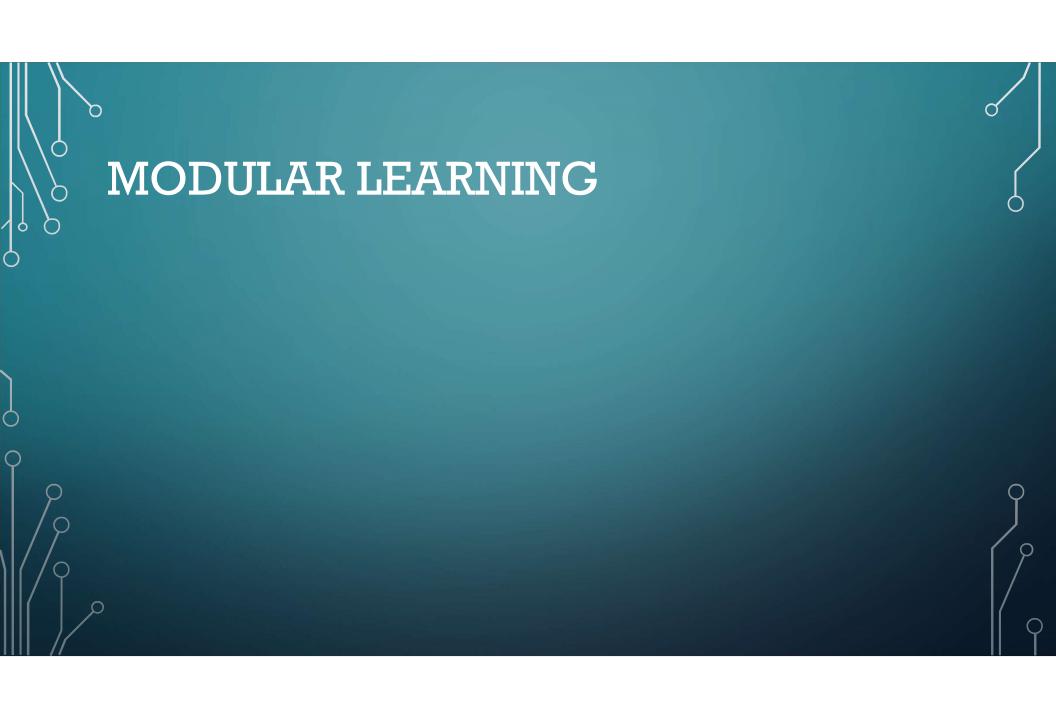
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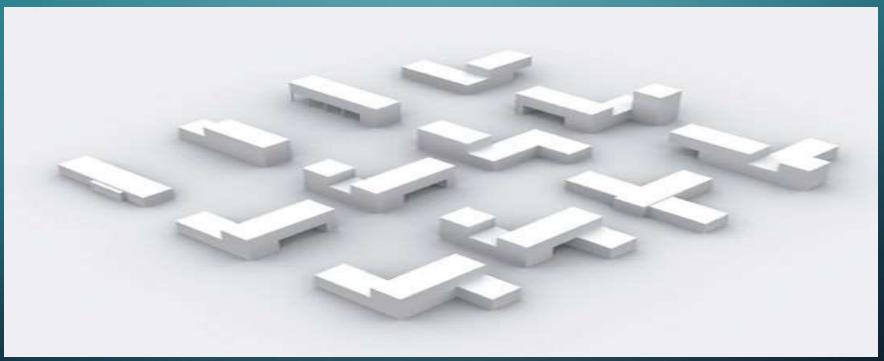
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ACCESS AND REPRESENTATION

- Women are currently the majority of graduates
 - Projected to be the majority of college-educated workers in the United States in 2019
- Women and People of Color lag in leadership roles currently
 - Future state will significantly change this paradigm
- Privileged people must be anti-racist
 - https://www.ibramxkendi.com/how-to-be-an-antiracist



MODULAR LEARNING



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MODULAR LEARNING

- Students engaging with parts of a class over an individually determined period of time
- Combining modules within a course or within a major
- Focusing on specific sets of problem statements at one time enhances the breadth and depth of a learner's knowledge
- Reliant on the funding model
- Supported by an interoperable learner record and technology





INTEROPERABLE LEARNER RECORD

- More than just an electronic transcript
- Combination of multiple existing datasets to enhance understanding of learning outcomes and skills gained
- Enhanced representation of experiential learning

INTEROPERABLE LEARNER RECORD

- More than just an electronic transcript
- Combination of multiple existing datasets to enhance understanding of learning outcomes and skills gained
- Enhanced representation of experiential learning
- Inclusion of microcredentials
- Degrees, certifications, licenses





OUR INTUITION ABOUT THE FUTURE IS LINEAR, BUT IN FACT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IS EXPONENTIAL."

RAY KURZWEIL AUTHOR, INVENTOR, FUTURIST





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TECHNOLOGY

- Intrusive and disruptive technologies will become pervasive technologies, leveraged to support education
- Virtual reality will provide immersive experiences
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) will assist struggling students in targeted, customized ways
- Faculty will study and apply these technologies to maximize effectiveness

TECHNOLOGY

- Highly integrated systems to support all aspects of the learning experience
- Those same systems are leveraged by administrators to record and document learners' participation and achievents
- Will support alumni matching, faculty research, and career placement

SUMMING UP

- Higher Education will change dramatically in the next 30 years
- Funding for all will remove obstacles for access and equity and will see an expansion in representation
- Learners will engage in more varied delivery models
- Learners' achievements and experiences will be compiled in one Interoperable Learner Record
- Technology plays a critical supporting role

THANK YOU!

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