



Overcoming Barriers to Success: *Outline*¹

Ted Ward

A. Why is it important to expand our modes of education?

1. Even for institutions, *change* is important to lively vitality.
2. *Elitism* in higher education is a sure consequence of escalating costs. As never before, there is a need to increase access in order *to increase the cash flow* in many higher educational institutions.
3. There are far better models of education than the conformist, competitive, mechanistic sort of formal education.

B. What are the “barriers” (to “success”—or rather, to doing what must be done for survival?!)

1. Barriers in general: The human habit and anxiety about change—*fear of the unknown*
2. Paper tiger: *accreditation*, too commonly used to retard progress in educational innovation and responsiveness to needful audiences.
3. Self-preservation (self-interest) on the part of faculty. Instinct dictates a *fear and disdain for the presumed loss of prestige* as the halls of ivy are pushed outward toward the marketplace.

C. A recommended key to transformation (“overcoming barriers”)

1. Developing a *service mentality and orientation* to replace the power and control values in Christian higher education.
2. *Include extension teaching* in all professorial job descriptions.
3. Reconstitute curriculum and purposes to more substantially *value good theory as a basis for effective action and practice*.

¹ Ted Ward. Keynote address: Overcoming Barriers to Success. Outline. ACCESS Conference, Orlando, January 1999. Ted was given the Lifetime Achievement Award at this banquet.