

# IEEE *RELAY*



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### **iii) Are you being Educated?**

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I hope all of the students truly think about this question on a daily basis. I also hope that all of us are being educated and are constantly improving our knowledge base and capabilities. As you may know, universities are in the business of “education”. Many people think that universities are in the business of teaching. While education and teaching may seem to be the same, there are conceptually different. Teaching is “teacher-centric”. The main responsibility is on the shoulders of the teachers. However, the best education is “learner-centric”. You can say that it is the same as “student-centric”. However, as we all know, professors are also learning within the university setting. We, the students and the professors, have to systematically keep learning. Being in the business of education, we need to stay competitive!

In a learner-centric environment the learner is responsible to get the best education. Therefore, in a university setting, the learner needs to utilize the resources to optimize his/her education. Those with better habits, more efficient learning skills, more passion, and good perseverance will learn more and will be educated more effectively. That is why all of us should work on developing better habits and improving our learning skills. Meanwhile, each of us should ask ourselves “Am I being educated? Are my learning skills, study habits, learning speed improving?”

You should also note that a good teacher, or a good mentor, can help accelerate your learning, develop better habits, and create passion for new subjects. Find people who can help you, use them as mentors. Find teachers who can teach you the most and work with them. In fact within the university there are many wonderful teachers who try to do their jobs (educate the students) to the best of their abilities. It is the teachers' responsibility to provide accurate, up-to-date, and challenging classes with healthy, open and fair environments to provide the best opportunity for the students to learn. In the process, it is students' responsibility to learn what is presented, do the required tasks, and keep up with the class. I hope every one of the students who are reading these lines is actively involved in their education and are looking for better ways, better habits and better tools to learn. The students should also help the teachers be more instrumental in accelerating their learning process. You should indeed communicate your ideas with your professors and help them provide a better environment for you to learn more. Do not take the education process for granted, start participating in your education actively.

The ultimate goal for each of us is to become lifelong learners. We need to constantly expand our capabilities, enjoy the learning challenges, enjoy learning new concepts, new subjects, and new ideas. Finally, we all need to learn how to work in diverse teams, and utilize group based projects. By definition, education also includes integration of the knowledge. Consequently the learner needs to learn the inter-relationship between different aspects of the same discipline as well as between different disciplines. That is why in the university setting engineering students need to take classes outside their field as well as outside the engineering and science disciplines. It is all provided to help students to have a well-rounded education opportunity, an opportunity that needs to be utilized appropriately.

The world is changing constantly, and technology is moving at an unprecedented speed. Being involved in technological fields demands much more than ever. The ones who know it all usually find themselves in a world that no longer exists. The future belongs to the lifelong learners. As Aristotle said "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit". Being a lifelong learner starts with many continuous and consistent steps, with making mistakes and learning from them. It starts with enjoying the learning process, and looking forward to learning challenges, being actively involved in your education, and repeatedly practicing what we learn. We all need to develop habits that will facilitate our lifelong learning capabilities. I hope you are all being educated well, and are becoming lifelong learners.