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Play All Digital disruption has required quick and massive change at universities, according to Glyn Davis, vice-chancellor of the University fundamentally," Davis said this afternoon at ED:SPARK, an education-focussed startup conference in Sydney hosted by Optus Innov8. According to Davis, higher education must answer the question, "If everything's online, why come to the campus?" As a result, traditional lecture theatres are disappearing, he said. Every university is busy "ripping them out" in favour of labs and other spaces that emphasise interactivity, he said. Every university is busy "ripping them out" in favour of labs and other spaces that emphasise interactivity, he said. Every university is busy "ripping them out" in favour of labs and other spaces that emphasise interactivity, he said. Every university is busy "ripping them out" in favour of labs and other spaces that emphasise interactivity, he said. libraries, said Davis. The University of Melbourne is instead refocussing the spaces to spur interaction among students, he said. Universities must also connect students to the industry, for example by bring technical people form major tech companies into the university to collaborate on startup incubators, he said. Davis added that he is a believer in MOOCs—massive open online courses. He called such free courses as a "really important way to learn." The University of Melbourne hosted its first MOOC last year, enrolling 348,000 students from around the world, he said. While this year's course has yet to begin, the university has already signed up the first 67,000 students, he said. Higher education has grown considerably since 1990 and is now a \$15 billion a year industry, Davis said. However, that success does not mean universities can rest on their laurels, he said. "Innovation—if you don't move quickly you get wiped out." Adam Bender covers business tech issues for CIO and is the author of a dystopian novel about surveillance. Follow him on Twitter: @WatchAdam Follow CIO Australia on Twitter and Like us on Facebook... Twitter: @CIO Australia When teens get all their money from parents, they may not understand the balance of income and expenses that goes into a budget. However, as they get older, they have to make spending and saving decisions. An early start on that part of their education can prevent many financial problems in their young adulthood and beyond. Parents may complain when their teens ask for cash, "Money doesn't grow on trees." Actually, teens may not realize where money comes from. In their world, you ask Mom or Dad for money, and you get it. Teens can learn the value of counting in each month, you can teach them that financial resources are not unlimited. This important lesson will apply the rest of their lives, whether they are working a job or running a business. What you have coming in is all you get. Most teen spending is discretionary. That is, they only spend money on things they want, not on things they want to spend money on for the week or the month. Include entertainment, snacks and even luxury items such as a case for a smart phone. Teens tend to think of savings as money they don't get to spend. The idea of needing money in the future seems foreign to them, because you've taken care of all their financial needs. Their view may be, "If I need money next year, I'll ask my parents for it." You can counter this tendency by asking the teen to identify some large purchase she would want to make in the future. Good candidates for this include video game consoles, sneakers or a special jacket or dress. Then show your teen how to save a little money each week until there's enough money for the purchase. This teaches the opposite of instant gratification. Teens who know how long it takes to save money to buy something they want appreciate the value of large sums of money. Your teen can write down all expected income, expenses and savings and see how money has to be portioned out in a budget. Adult budgets are certainly more complex, but this beginning budget helps a teen grasp the basics of managing money. It's a lesson that will last a lifetime no matter how complex the income, expenditures and investments become. That is the big question. Do you need college? Maybe not, there are programs such as battlefields.com, and training for welders, auto technicians and other trade workers, all of which one can use the GI Bill for. Maybe one has experience gained from on-the-job training (OJT) or military training. There are many career choices that do not require college today. A college education is an investment in your future, and for future generations. With that said, many of those jobs are physical and labor intensive—often great for young adults in their prime and good health. But what happens when an injury or illness impacts your ability to hold a weld line in 90-degree weather? Or if you are like me, you spent your body and the wear and tear has caught up to you. I was watching a program on TV last week that featured Fort Bragg's Airborne training. The instructor informed the quest that the equipment for a 150 lb. person, would likely be about 250 lbs. What long term impact would that have on a hard working Veteran? And this is just one small example of the ongoing abuse Veterans inflict upon our minds and bodies. So approaching 50 now, I saw three options for myself. Get a degree that allows me to have a well-paying office job, start my own business or win the lottery. I was fortunate—I had previous experience that allowed me to get hired into a Program Manager position without a degree. However, seeing the light, I enrolled in college and completed a Bachelor's Degree as I never wanted to be in the position of seeking a career without one again. It was tough. I have now realized that if I desire to remain competitive with my peers and grow, I will likely need to pursue a Masters as well. I am sharing this with fellow Veterans as I am seeing a common trend. Either we get to college or we do not, it may be because we do not believe in college education the same as private sector. It may be we are fearful of sitting in class with non-Veterans. We may disagree with some academic teachings that place science higher than all else. Or it may be that we are just lazy. I love Clint Eastwood, but when Gunny was asked what college he went to and he replied "Heartbreak Ridge," he did no soldier a favor. While I value my military experience over college and any other position I have seen many struggle with is online vs. on-campus education. No matter your thought on it, many Veterans want one on-campus class only to be able to receive the full the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH). Online only cuts in half the BAH and many forego even starting, "hoping" for a better time to start on-campus, do it now. If that does not work for you, then online-only is fine, and the BAH is an added benefit that will help. I attended college online full-time with a fulltime job and a wife and kids, etc. There are no more excuses, pick your degree, your school, and get that degree. You may be surprised how much you learn about yourself and your interests. I find myself more excited to learn now than I was before. Lastly, we need Veterans to be the next leaders of America. Politicians, CEOs, Hiring Managers. Just as the World War II Veterans changed America with the GI Bill, we owe it to our future Veterans to pave the way before them to make their transition that much smoother than ours. Ruck up, and get/stay in college! PS: Before you give your future to your kids, consider this. Media Platforms Design TeamThis time of year it's all about back to school shopping, and if you have a son or daughter headed off to college for the first time, "back to school shopping" is taking on new significance. To help you decide what you do need to buy, or bring from home, and what you don't, who better than an upper classman? Here's some advice from Hillary Reeves, one of our GHRI summer interns and soon to be a senior at Fordham University in NYC."In a few short weeks, you have to gather and pack up everything you'll need to make your dorm room feel like home (and if your parents are anything like mine, they'll have very different ideas than you about exactly what you'll need). Before my freshman year, I packed up my stereo, while my mom insisted I take a mini ironing board. Neither of these things were necessary but there were quite a few things I found I did need that neither of us thought of. So, I put together this list of things to skip and th Printer: My mom refused to buy me a printer and suggested, to my horror, that I print assignments in my school's computer labs. But during my first few weeks at school, I reluctantly realized that my mom was right: Paying ten cents a page in the computer labs wasn't so bad. I avoided spending money on ink and didn't have to worry about printer. malfunctions minutes before class. 2. Over-the-door hooks: "Where are you going to hang your towels?" my mother inseyoisted, as she tossed over-the-door hooks into my shopping cart. While she was right about the extra hooks, my dorm room, like many others, had fire-resistant doors, meaning that there wasn't enough space between the door and the doorframe to hang anything. Adhesive hooks like 3M Command strips are probably a better choice. 3. Formal clothes: Leave your prom dresses and high-heels home. While you may have occasion for one formal outfit, most days you'll just be studying in your sweats. 4. Books/CDs/DVDs: You won't have much leisure time for reading and MP3s and online video streams eliminate the need for CDs and DVD collections. 5. High School memorabilia: Your yearbook and cheerleading jacket will just gather dust as you make new friends and join new clubs; leave them at home where they'll stay in good shape. Bring it! You won't be sorry! 1. Nail Clippers: So small, so easy to forget, and so important! About a week or two into every fall semester, my roommates and I always realize that we've forgotten fingernail clippers. Sure, it's something you can go and pick up at the drugstore, but if you buy them along with other toiletry items, ahead of time, on your parent's dime, it's one less thing to distract you from your studies. A copy of important documents: For financial aid records and study abroad forms, you'll need a copy of your passport, birth certificate, and/or social security card. Rather than scrambling to get them mailed to you overnight, bring and keep copies with you in a safe and secure place (it may even be a good idea to get a lock box for your room), but be sure to leave the originals safely at home. 3. Rain boots: As my mom loves to point out, I no longer have the luxury of being driven door-to-door, so when it's raining or snowing and I have to get across campus, nothing's more valuable than a good pair of rain boots. Your feet will stay dry and you won't have an excuse for skipping class! 4. An Expanding File folder: Countless times I've lost a syllabus, forgotten an assignment, or misplaced a graded paper. While you can store a lot on your computer orexternal hard drive (also a college essential), there are some papers that just need to be saved the old-fashioned way. My mother suggested an expanding file folder to me, and I can't live without it. (Thanks Mom!) Organize things by course in this compactable folder, and at the end of the semester, decide what is and isn't worth saving. 5. Can Opener: Chances are, whether you'll be eating primarily in a cafeteria or will access to a kitchen, your mom is out shopping for non-perishable food items at this very moment. But in order to avoid having to open a can of sloppy joe sauce with a screwdriver, keep a can opener on hand. Though, having a screwdriver isn't a bad idea, either. "Before you hit the stores, check out this college packing list from our GHRI Directors. Going to Bed Bath & Beyond? Check out this college packing list from our GHRI Directors. Going to Bed Bath & Beyond? Check out this college packing list from our GHRI Directors. Going to Bed Bath & Beyond? Check out this college packing list from our GHRI Directors. Going to Bed Bath & Beyond? Check out this college packing list from our GHRI Directors. Appliances and Technology LabSharon has been with the GHI since 1987, when she was hired as an assistant primarily to develop recipes for the magazine's column on microwave cooking. Before joining GHI, she was a chef in restaurants in the World Trade Center.

