Promising Possibilities with Open Badges

Democratizing & Humanizing Education with Badges?

Dr. Bernard Bull

www.etale.org

www.moonshotedu.com

@BernardBull
We will amplify and muzzle voices with our work. We will contribute to new winners and new losers.
“Most wars, after all, present themselves as humanitarian endeavors to help people.”

-Howard Zinn
The Third Way
“The best way to predict the future is to create it.”

-Abraham Lincoln
“There is no such thing as neutral educational process. Education either functions as an instrument that is used to facilitate the integration of the younger generation in the logic of the present system and bring about conformity to it, or it becomes ‘the practice of freedom,’ the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world.”

Hauhl, Introduction to Pedagogy of the Oppressed, 34.
“How long can a democracy survive if people only learn to comply and they do not learn to speak up about (and act upon) what matters to them...to take ownership for what they accomplish and what happens to them?”

How can we nurture a growing sense of competence and confidence in learners so that they step up to the challenges of their time, and stand up for their deepest convictions in the modern world?
“We are in an age of knowledge and skill emancipation.”
(Blaschke & Hase, 2016, p. 25)
2013 to the Present

60+ articles & 90,000+ words that tell the story of my journey through the world of badges
a celebration of contribution

playfulness

curricular building blocks

evidence of professional development
self-directed learning pathways

evidence of competence

evidence of professional development

unbundling

curricular building blocks

team teaching

dating service
self-awareness of growth
evidence of learning
personal storytelling
secondary to the artifact & experience
connections
The Power of Story

The most important story you will ever tell about yourself is the story you tell to yourself. Loehr, The Power of Story, 14.

Empowering learners to recognize and tell their own stories.

Learning to tell your story so that others can benefit from it and connect with you.
Pathways Versus Gateways
19th to the 21st Century
What happens when the factories become the Luddites?
Policies & Standards

Protecting Corporate, Educational & Government Control

Versus

Protecting Public Interest and Individual Rights
Competency as Static Versus Competency as Dynamic
Summative Credentialing
Versus
Formative Credentialing
Credentialism Versus Match Making
Portfolio as Collection of Credentials & Artifacts

Versus

Portfolio as a Dynamic Personal Narrative
Standardize Versus Personalize
(Both, or Neither)

https://marquetteeducator.wordpress.com/2012/07/12/climbthattree/
Learner as Patient/Customer Versus Learner as Co-creator

Forbidden Narratives: Critical Autobiography as Social Science (Church, 1995)
“Positive health means becoming wholeheartedly engaged with our own health care. It means not outsourcing our health to the health care system. It means getting rid of the fear and paralysis we too often feel, and instead cultivating a sense of agency.” – Jane McGonigal
Schools of the Past
They convinced 80% of the students that they were not smart, increasing their contentment with less complex jobs.

Schools of the Future
Create a system that convinces 80% of the students that they are smart and able agents.

– Mark Treadwell, 2015
Learning as Lumber
Versus Learning as a Forest

Which will our assessments and credentials resemble or amplify?
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