

# *Let's Schmooze*

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## **Recession-proof Education**

Ever since the Great Recession about 10+ years ago, many folks have wondered if a college education is really worth it. After all, there are a lot of Bachelor and Master degrees still waiting on tables in second-hand, part-time restaurant jobs. And, to add to the misery of it, many graduates come out of school with a massive student debt load. Was it really worth all those years of time, energy, and money ~ just to bust tables?

For those caught at the bottom of the economic ladder ~ probably not. However, a different approach to education would have prevented them from being caught in the sticky spider-web of formal "higher" education.

Let's chart a way to secure a higher education today without being trapped into a meaningless job with crushing student debt.

First step ~ go to a local community college and acquire a "tech" work-related, 2-year degree in a skill that is interesting to you, and one with which you can find immediate, gainful employment after completion of the two years. Local community colleges are relatively inexpensive.

Second step ~ leave the college scene, and work in your new skill area for a few years. Pocket that loot; it'll feel good ~ you deserve it. Then, if you still have a thirst for more formal education, go to the next step.

Third step ~ acquire a Bachelor's degree (two more years of formal education) ~ possibly in the liberal arts. Your major and minor do not need to be tied into your community college 2-year tech degree. That little money-maker is always there for you. If you have

become a valued employee, the company you are working with may offer to pay for your Bachelor's degree.

Fourth step ~ leave the college scene, again, and secure the best employment that you can with your 2-year work-related degree and your enveloping 4-year Bachelor's degree. Keep your mind open when you chase that new job. It can, but doesn't necessarily need to be, linked to your 2-year tech degree. Pocket the loot. Then, after a few years, if you have a thirst for still more formal education, go to the next step.

Fifth step ~ for those who wish to become a craftsman, or professional, in a technical capacity, acquire a Master's degree in that particular field. For those who wish to go into management, acquire either an MBA (Master in Business Administration) or an MPA (Master in Public Administration). Both involve only two more years of formal education. Again, if you have become a valued employee, the company you are working will very likely offer to pay for your Master's degree.

Now, you have an envious complete and seasoned education ~ six years worth ~ together with significant relevant job experience. The job market will beg for you.

Think about it ~

The 2-year community college work degree taught you how to *think* like others.

The next degree, the Bachelor, taught you how to *think* for yourself.

The final degree, the Master, taught you how to *think* for others.

Now you have it all. Go and enjoy life!

~ *'til we meet again* ~