What is an Educated Person?

Summary of Comments Made on the Educated Citizen List Serve
From May – August 2003

An educated person …

1) Is able to advance from knowledge and understanding to real wisdom.

2) Has verbal and written communication skills to transfer information and for formation of relationships. Also has strong interpersonal and listening skills.

3) Has a solid proficiency in language, reasoning and computing skills.

4) Has a knowledge base that enables him/her to make informed decisions.

5) Is able to integrate information received and the use of the knowledge.

6) Is aware that sometimes, there are no answers.

7) Values lifelong learning and is self-motivated to continue to learn, including through independent learning.

8) Knows when to withhold judgment because he/she knows that information is missing.

9) Is able to assess information – is information competent.

10) Is reflective of his/her own experiences and can search for meaning and purpose in his/her life.

11) Is an “intentional learner” (see Greater Expectations report of AACU) “who can adapt to new environments, integrate knowledge from different sources, and continue learning throughout their lives. To thrive in a complex world, these intentional learners should also become:
   a. Empowered through the mastery of intellectual and practical skills
   b. Informed by knowledge about the natural, social and cultural worlds and about forms of inquiry basic to these studies
   c. Responsible for their personal actions and for civic values."

12) Is able to think creatively.

13) Is able to synthesize information using rational and emotional abilities.

14) Understands how other cultures and other people search for meaning and purpose in life.

15) Is a responsible citizen; able to serve society (see SJSU mission statement); can work effectively with government and other social institutions; can critically assess social political and economic structures in order to form collective strategies for change to address root problems. Able to be a global citizen.

16) Is able to adapt to new situations due to his/her knowledge and ability to understand new areas. Can transfer knowledge and skills from one discipline to another because knows how to set a foundation to learn a discipline.

17) Is open-minded.

Educated person is too limiting because it connotes completeness, rather than indicating that education is a process that never ends.

Educated persons are not just informed, but are changed.

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