

Four Pillars of Charity and Philanthropy
-Second Pillar: Intellectual and Moral Excellence:
Education, Knowledge & Wisdom -
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SVB Interests makes charitable and philanthropic grants based on alignment with its four pillars

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In The Republic, Plato wrote, "*The two most important questions each citizen must ask of society are 'Who is teaching the children? And, what are they teaching them?'*" These two questions are as important today as Plato believed them to be in Athens in 400 BCE.

A free commercial constitutional republic like ours cannot endure without an educated and moral citizenry. Without these essential virtues, America will degrade into despotic socialism or fascist tyranny. Freedom cannot persist in the absence of the cardinal virtues and eternal truths that pass the arduous tests of fierce and open public debate

Public, aka "government" K-12 education, has been disordered for over fifty years. Despite most teachers' passionate commitment and indefatigable efforts to educate their students toward essential character, knowledge and skills formation, the teachers' unions and education bureaucrats have hijacked the education narrative and agenda for political and social ends into something destructive and unrecognizable. The self-serving, monopolistically obsessed protection racket of the public education establishment, the breakdown of the patriarchal family, and its recent attempts to indoctrinate students in new gender identity and victimization theories have hindered children from normal emotional development and from achieving grade-level competency in reading, writing, and math. These are the foundations of intellectual and moral excellence necessary for a flourishing society.

Furthermore, much of higher education has become as disordered as government-run K-12, hiding behind a torn veil of so-called "academic freedom" with the advocacy of cleverly engineered and destructive social theories. The introduction and enforcement

of speech codes and intentional squashing of alternate points of view to protect progressive liberal ideas and political agendas have shown that academic freedom has no safe place in most higher education.

Furthermore, higher education has long abandoned any foundational instruction in the liberal arts, including philosophy, theology, and great works of literature, a.k.a, "classical liberalism" and the "humanities." Instead, most higher education has become grounds for training social justice warriors steeped in intentionally corrupt scholarship. Its focus primarily on the market-driven technical professions like bioscience, business, engineering, law, and medicine has been without any serious education of what it means to be a good human being. As a result, most students have a vague or erroneous notion of knowledge or what it means to think objectively. Often, one's feelings are considered the arbiter of knowledge, absent any reasoned thought about human nature and the cascading consequences of decisions and policies.

Social studies and the humanities departments intentionally revise or demonize established American history and have become factories for victim studies and induced rebellion over racial or sexual lines. Few students are taught to rationally determine for themselves the answers to fundamental questions such as, *"What does it mean to live a good life?"*, *"What is the best form of government for society?"*, *"What is wisdom?"*, *"What is knowledge?"*, *"What is truth?"* and *"Why are wisdom, knowledge, and truth essential to a flourishing life?"* When recently asked what their goals in life are, the two most popular answers given by a sample of undergraduates in one survey were *"to be rich"* and *"to be famous!"* Most of these students will be neither. They view wealth and fame as an end. Most have not obtained the foundational wisdom to commence a balanced, productive, contemplative life. They fail to find joy, significance, and meaning and to seek God's intention for them.

Add to this mix the high levels of student debt incurred to finance expensive fine arts, teaching, and technical degrees that will never yield an economic return; it is no wonder that the questionable value of higher education is a popular topic of conversation.

Competition, which is the pursuit of excellence, creates excellence in everything, like craftsmanship, fine arts, athletics, business, commerce, and academics. And, without continuous fierce and threatening competition, there can be no excellence in any education system, especially K-12. Therefore, the heavily government-influenced education systems must again have intensely fierce private-sector competition from alternative means such as charter schools, homeschooling, and private theological schools, so all students, parents, and teachers have bonafide and accessible choices in

education. Competition, choice, and accessibility will raise the performance bar of all schools, teachers, and their students.

Numerous surveys show that higher education institutions, including Ivy League schools, have lost much ground in their claims as the door through which students must enter to have an economically productive life. This is due in part to the tiresome progressive liberal agenda. A reversal of this destructive force by, among other things, a reimplementation of foundational instruction in classical liberalism alongside the popular, degree-granting technical programs. Students must know what it means to live a good life.

SVB Charities actively makes grants to private and Christian K-12 schools and colleges, untainted by government or union influence, committed to intellectual and moral excellence to develop the souls and minds of students into great thinkers, righteous persons, patriotic citizens, and great leaders. It also makes grants to institutions that advocate for unencumbered competition and choice in K-12 and programs that aid in educating underprivileged children. Finally, SVB Charities makes grants to organizations that advocate for free speech in higher education and excellent scholarship related to conservative ideas and classical liberalism