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### The Urban Campus: Education Beyond Academics

Colleges and Universities with urban campuses offer a myriad of advantages over their rural and suburban counterparts. Historically throughout Western Civilization, universities have been an important component of urban centers, and it's obvious why. Universities should be convenient to access, provide an experience rich in humanities & culture, and be non-discriminating in access.

Today transportation is the biggest issue. Persistent traffic congestion is an axiom in both American suburban and urban environments. However, the advent of affordable and responsible automobile ownership is prologue. Locating a university in a suburban environment, beyond the reach of mass transit, compels automobile ownership and thereby causes unnecessary pollution encourages environmentally irresponsible use of natural resources. Moreover, by the implicit nature of the suburban landscape, the choice of location will only result in convenience automobile access to a limited number of students and faculty: those with residences or employers in proximity. Conversely, mass transit in our urban centers continues evolved to meet public demands for affordable, reliable, safe, clean, comfortable, affordable, and a globally responsible alternatives to gridlock. Universities should be located in proximity to mass transit to take advantage of these benefits.

To be conducive to learning, a university environment should be safe, clean & comfortable. This environment can exist in both a rural and urban location. However, locating a university in an suburban/rural environment is not conducive to education beyond simple academics. Urban environments provide an ambient environment ideal to higher learning. Urban environments provide convenient access to basic amenities and supporting businesses, such as food & beverage, that are inconvenient to access at large corporate office parks. They expose students to humanities, arts, sciences, business, and cultural influence that the suburbs are bereft of. Urban environments provide convenient access to libraries, museums, performing arts, government institutions, cultural diversity, parks, recreation, mass transit, as well as internship & employment opportunities.

Finally, location & appeal in a suburban landscape is highly detrimental to university enrollment. A university, regardless of location, aims to attract a variety of traditional and non-traditional students from a variety of professional, academic,

ethnic, religious, socio-political, and economic backgrounds. Locating in an suburban area constricts the pool of potential students to those which can afford the increased transportation and housing costs. It also creates an aura of elitism, exclusiveness, and privileged access. This results in polarization of the student body. Conversely, location in a urban landscape breaks down such barriers and facilitates diversified enrollment.

Urban environments serve as an incubator for diversified and balanced higher education. Rural environments are well suited for some specialty universities, such as agricultural studies, as well as universities that service a aggregated regional urban areas. However they are the wrong environment for general studies the and liberal arts. Isolation deprives the student body of the full education experience of the mind, body, and soul.