Own Your Education

## Introduction

There’s a giant problem looming over the state of Washington, and it seems that the State legislature doesn’t know how to fully address it. The driving core of our state’s economy is a thriving and vibrant tech-based work-force, and as students and educators, we are responsible for innovating the technologies that will keep that economy vibrant on into the future. Unfortunately, we are shackled by an educational system that persists in an archaic state by segregating educational systems from those of industry. For Washington State’s future-work-force to avoid the same fate as the coal miners of the United States’ Midwest (“Unemployment: Kentucky (U)”) -- the obsoletion of our top industry’s labor force’s skill set -- we need to shift our educational emphasis in higher learning towards the generation of tools and resources that aid continuing educational needs of our highly dynamic industries. Fortunately, we still have time to implement the solution by expanding the applications of our hard-earned skill sets and prevent Washington State workers from becoming obsolete before we reach retirement age as there is a solution within our grasp.

(Draft note)I need to refactor and rewrite some of my intro in order to create language that is less a mix of multiple different sources, and more of a direct line from a few specific ones.

## Students are their own solution

As aspiring students in the Sciences, Technologies, Engineering, and Math(STEM), we have already acquired the necessary skills to start addressing the needs of our future selves. This means we need to start applying the lessons from lectures and homework towards the task of developing open licensed alternatives to services, such as Canvas, that address and solve the problems of protecting user intellectual property (IP), student and educator privacy concerns, and multiplatform compatibility.

### The LMS shall protect user IP

There is an abundance of innovation in academia that is focused on solving the issue of keeping up with industry but not becoming so incredibly bloated that students cannot finish their programs. Without a means to ensure that an individual’s IP is protected, and credit for their work is properly allocated, there can be no open license LMS.

To address this issue, we need to develop a social media like system that allows people to share and cite thoughts and ideas centered around academic innovation that allows people to create clear and insightful demonstrations of educational concepts, without forcing them to reveal the underlying IP.

### The LMS shall provide privacy to students and educators

No one wants to participate in a system where any failure or shortcoming is made public. We must provide a means for students and educators to store their tools, resources, personal performance, and thoughts on the performance of others in a user controlled way. This again will resemble social media, but it will offer greater filtration tools for users to seek out and study the works of others without compromising that security. This means tighter restrictions on what information is available by default on a user’s profile, as well as a de-emphasis on the person owning that profile, in order to promote a healthy academic discourse on the tools and innovations being shared.

### The LMS shall work on a wide range of platforms

As silly as it sounds to imitate a meme in the description of this feature. The platform needs to be able to function on Windows, Linux, MacOS, Android, Chromium. The base functionality of the platform doesn’t need to be expansive at first, which is the entire reason for making it open source, so the implementation of a very diverse array of operating environments is very manageable.

## Conclusion

We have seen the consequences of not respecting the potential harms of an obsolete work force, and without beating a dead horse we must also consider that as the rate of change in technology is increasing to become faster than our current notion of change might allow us to accept. If we respect those two notions, then we must also respect the fact that the time for action is now. Don’t wait to start contributing to the safety of our common future, you have the tools and the expertise to make a positive impact now.

You can start [here!](https://github.com)

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