

# NEXT

## The Goal Academy & Local Economic Development

How The Good American Post Media-Model Can Be Used In Local Communities



“See this iPhone, this is our lifeline,” said George Mayfield, a Math instructor at the Goal Academy. The Goal Academy is a chartered high school located throughout the state of Colorado. Mayfield is located (technically) at the Pueblo location, situated in the Pueblo Mall. Mall? Yes, although this location is not even really needed, because students of the Goal Academy use their laptops or PCs to connect to their classroom. Students use their cell phones, Skype, and other social media to connect to their teachers – there is no standard classroom, only locations where students can access the Internet and Wifi.

This school could be looked at as a “school of last resorts”. Around 90% of the students are those that: work full time, are parents, have dropped out of regular high schools, have had drug or gang problems, etc. There are many students that need just a few more credits to move forward with their career, or to be able to participate in our military service. These are the students that are many times forgotten, given up on, and left behind. These are also the students that are sometimes the most gifted and creative people roaming the planet.

There are also many students who just crave the independence and agility that the program offers. Let’s face it – we are living in a world that is much different than it was even just twenty years ago (I am certainly testament to that). As we have evolved as a society, community, and culture, so have the needs of our students. As we change, our children and students are often forced to stick within rules and norms developed

long before Facebook and iPhones. Again, these students that are often looked at as “trouble-makers” are those that are highly intelligent and just severely bored with what (or how) they are learning. They may wake up at 11AM and text faster than they can talk at times, but that only means that their methods of learning and communication are different, and the Goal Academy has been privy to that.

Instructors here are required to interact with their students, namely online, going through the various courses that are part of the curriculum of a regular high school. Those instructors, going above and beyond, are often traced roaming throughout the city, finding times and places that work good for them and their students to meet. Mayfield is often up, coherent, and online around 1:00 AM, when many of his students are up working on their assignments and tests. This type of flexibility for the students also can appeal to the teachers, who may be able to better work around a schedule based on online activities versus announcing bells at a brick and mortar school.

Myself, and The Good American Post, are working with some key instructors at the Goal Academy to develop a curriculum/program/ internship opportunity for ambitious and achieving students. These students need an outlet to learn about the process of creating and distributing a publication (as well as being active in their community), and if they are successful, could walk into a paid position as soon as they graduate (perhaps even sooner). The Good American Post will benefit by having these young minds

working and building the publications, as well as the company itself. Our goal, as a company, is to support local communities and build local economies. What better way to do that than to have our students becoming a part of media communications, utilizing their time and talents, growing a publication, and getting a career opportunity where they will be able to be an active part of their local economy?

Our next generation can often be a group of misunderstood individuals. It is my belief, that we must be willing to work with these young minds and allow them to use their methods of learning and communication, to see them grow and thrive. In addition to this, our youth desperately needs outlets for their creativity – when there is now way for these kids to express themselves – that is when you find problems. When our youth has outlets to express themselves, be creative, and work hard, it is our belief, as a company, that we will see more productive, efficient, and satisfied members of our community and society. It all begins with the opportunity. The Goal Academy has done this for its students, and we are very much looking forward to working with their program.

As of today, we have our first writer, Scott Bean, and will very much be looking forward to his contributions. He will not only be our youngest contributor to The Good American Post, but also the next generation of investigative journalists for this great Country.

- Publisher, Tisha T. Casida

“Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school.”

Albert Einstein

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