



The Penn Program on Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism (DCC) Presents:

"Roundtable on For-Profit Educational Corporations"

- **Peter P. Smith, Senior VP, Kaplan Higher Education**
- **Jonathan Harber, CEO, SchoolNet, Inc.**
- **Michael Moe, Advisor, GSV Advisors; Founder, GSV Asset Management**

The Penn DCC Program will be hosting the next event in its 2010-2011 Faculty Workshop Series, a Roundtable on For-Profit Educational Corporations, on **Thursday, January 19th**. **Please note that this event will NOT be held in our usual location.** The roundtable will be at **4:30-6:30** at the University of Pennsylvania's Jon Huntsman Hall's (located at 3730 Walnut St.), in Amphitheater F95. There will be a light reception in the Forum, directly following the event. Refreshments will be served.

Adam Smith, while extolling the many virtues of the market, nevertheless regarded it as incumbent on society as a whole to provide funds for public education, since the demands of labor if unchecked would lead to the "torpor of [the worker's] mind render[ing] him not only incapable of relishing or bearing a part in any rational conversation, but of conceiving any generous, noble, or tender sentiment...Of the great and extensive interests of his country he [would be] altogether incapable of judging," Smith feared. This outcome could be avoided, he argued, only if the "government takes some pains to prevent it." Yet today in the United States, for-profit educational corporations are playing an increasingly central role. Are these corporations a necessary corrective to the inefficiencies and failures of public education? Or do they promote the creation of an uncritical, atomistic, insular and passive citizenry, incapable of shouldering the burdens of democracy? And will for-profit educational initiatives enhance access to quality education for the poor, or worsen existing inequalities in educational quality. We seek to engage these and other questions at a Roundtable featuring three of the leading figures in for-profit education:

Peter P. Smith -- Senior VP at Kaplan Higher Ed, former U.S. Congressman, and former President of two public colleges;

Jonathan Harber -- Founder and CEO of schoolnet.com, the leading provider of data-driven educational assessment and improvement software; and

Michael Moe -- Advisor to GSV Advisors, founder of GSV Asset management, and contributor to NeXt Up! Weekly, a newsletter on the growth economy, and NeXtEdu, a website focused exclusively on education related news and research.