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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA990000345680403321 |
| Titolo | OZONE : Analytical Aspects and Odor Control. / Edited by Rip G. Rice, M.E. Browning |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | New York : The International Ozone Institute Inc., 1976 |
| Disciplina | 628 |
| Locazione | DINCH |
| Collocazione | 04 090-148 |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Italiano |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
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| 2. Record Nr. | UNINA9910464399303321 |
| Autore | Johansson Charity |
| Titolo | Transforming students : fulfilling the promise of higher education / / Charity Johansson and Peter Felten |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Baltimore, Maryland : , : Johns Hopkins University Press, , 2014
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| ISBN | 1-4214-1438-4 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (125 p.) |
| Disciplina | 370.11/5 |
| Soggetti | Transformative learning
Education, Higher - Aims and objectives
College students - Attitudes
Electronic books. |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Note generali | Description based upon print version of record. |
| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | ""Cover""; ""Contents""; ""Acknowledgments""; ""Introduction""; ""1 On the Threshold""; ""2 Creating Openness""; ""3 Thinking It Through""; ""4 Moved to Action""; ""5 In the Company of Others""; ""6 From Individuals to Institutions""; ""References""; ""Index""; ""A""; ""B""; ""C""; ""D""; ""E""; |

""F""; ""G""; ""H""; ""I""; ""K""; ""L""; ""M""; ""N""; ""O""; ""P""; ""R""; ""S""; ""T""; ""U""; ""V""; ""W""

Sommario/riassunto

"The central purpose of a college or university, argues Charity Johansson and Peter Felten, is to transform students. For a student this process is an ongoing one of intentionally aligning one's actions and behaviors with one's core sense of identity, and it is a university's mission to help students both transform themselves and understand the process of transformation so that they are well-equipped to flourish after they graduate. Transforming Students is a sequel of sorts to George Keller's top-selling Transforming a College, which focused on the community-wide effort to remake Elon from a struggling college to a top regional university. In it Johansson and Felten address the educational mission of Elon to shape students into intentional, critical, engaged individuals. Transformative learning for them is characterized by a deep and enduring change in thinking that is seen through changed ways of being in the world. It also generally reflects a new connection to some larger goal or purpose. Drawn from extensive interviews with Elon students and alumni, and with a dozen faculty and staff, this book gathers diverse stories to show how students experience the transformation process, one that rarely follows a neat or linear path. The authors also use these stories to illustrate central themes from the literature on transformative learning and the undergraduate student experience. This book echoes much of what Andrew Delbanco said in College: What it Was, Is, and Should Be (Princeton, 2012)--that the traditional four-year college experience is both vital to human development and endangered. Johansson and Felten approach the story from the students' perspective to provide a deeply humane book about the value of higher education"--

"The recent trend of trying to measure higher education's return on investment misses a fundamental point, argue Charity Johansson and Peter Felten. The central purpose of a college or university is to transform the lives of students--not to merely change them or help them mature. This transformation is an ongoing process of intentionally aligning one's behavior with one's core sense of personal identity. It is the university's central role to lead students in this transformation, a process that shapes students into intentional, critical, and engaged individuals. Recognizing the remarkable influence of the college experience on peoples' lives, the authors offer a guide to how colleges and universities can effectively lead students through this life-changing process. Drawn from extensive interviews with students and graduates, faculty and staff, Transforming Students gathers diverse stories to show how students experience the transformation process, which rarely follows a neat or linear path. The interviews illustrate central themes from the literature on transformative learning and the undergraduate student experience. A sequel of sorts to George Keller's classic Transforming a College--which chronicled Elon University's metamorphosis from struggling college to a top regional university--Transforming Students addresses the school's core educational mission: to shape students into engaged adults who embrace learning as a lifelong endeavor. Given this effect, the college experience is much more than preparation for a career. It is preparation for life"--