**Attaining Higher Education in the Digitized Economy**

K. Ken Shakoori

In our capitalistic system, national priorities in the digitized economy require investment in higher education to strengthen the intellectual potential of the workforce. The underpinning of its implementation processes requires a working environment conducive to collaborative teaching and learning, ensuring innovative development.

The digital economy has significantly reshaped employers' expectations, demanding high levels of expertise from their employees. This shift in demand underscores the importance of a well-educated and skilled workforce. Young Americans must invest in higher education to meet these new expectations. However, given their potential remuneration, it's equally crucial to be financially savvy and aware of the long-term implications when making this investment, empowering them to make informed decisions.

It's important to acknowledge that the workforce, through their hard work, has created substantial returns for their employers. However, the return on investment in education has not been as favorable for the workforce, with the top 1% of mega-corporations reaping the most benefits. This has led to the highest income and wealth inequality disparity, contributing to the shrinking middle class since the 1970s.

After considerable research and analysis of sociopolitical and economic policies enacted by Congress, it became clear that American capitalism's sociopolitical and economic institutions have gradually converted the American capitalist system to what is now known as the corporatist system, which considers the workforce as commodities, not human capital.

Paradoxically, despite advice from economic experts, political leaders have been unable to rectify the design and implementation of policies that marginalize the workforce. This has led to a sense of urgency among some who believe that only a democratic counterrevolution, such as socialism, can provide a solution. The need for change is urgent, and it's time to consider alternative solutions. This urgency should motivate us to discuss and consider new ideas, emphasizing the pressing need for change.

I want young, educated, and skilled Americans to learn from the history of capitalism that free-market capitalism thrived because self-interest and competition played a significant role in the free-market economy. Self-interest is the motivator, and competition is the regulator of economic activity, which is the foundation of the invisible hand described by Adam Smith. This historical knowledge must empower educated Americans to understand the current economic landscape and make informed decisions, thereby taking control of their economic future.

**The young, educated, and skilled Americans must envision a world where they, as workforce members, are not just part of the hierarchical apparatus but decision-makers in their workplace. A work environment where others do not dictate their income but are a direct reflection of the value they contribute.**

Current circumstances led me to introduce the concepts of dual entities and edified capitalists,  covered in my book, “Edified Capitalists Unravel Flaws of Capitalism,” informing them how to become the architect of their own success and transform the work environment. As the book indicates, this is not a mere fantasy but a tangible possibility we can explore together.