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The Purpose of a University: Supporting Students and Building Confidence

At the THE World Academic Summit 2024 currently underway, I was very impressed by the two University of Manchester students who served as MCs for the event. They were articulate, confident, and engaging. Universities should empower students to become not only successful professionals but also engaged and responsible citizens. As we continue to evolve in an ever-changing world, the role of universities in supporting and uplifting students remains more important than ever. The purpose of a university extends far beyond mere academics; it is a multifaceted institution dedicated to supporting students in their academic, personal, and professional journeys. By fostering confidence, providing resources, and creating a supportive community, we can help our students excel.

Universities play a pivotal role in shaping the future of individuals and society as a whole. While they are often seen primarily as institutions for higher learning, their purpose extends far beyond the acquisition of knowledge. A university's mission encompasses a wide range of functions that collectively support students, foster personal growth, and build the confidence necessary for success in an increasingly complex world.

At the heart of any university's mission is a commitment to providing academic support, including tutoring, mentoring, and counseling services. By offering an array of academic assistance, universities create an environment where students can thrive. This support helps students navigate their academic journeys, ensuring they have the tools and resources they need to excel. It also encourages students to broaden their horizons, challenge their assumptions, and develop critical thinking skills.

Confidence is a crucial component of student success, and universities play a significant role in fostering this trait. Through various extracurricular activities, leadership opportunities, and public speaking engagements, students can step out of their comfort zones and discover their potential.

In today's competitive job market, universities also serve the purpose of preparing students for their future careers. This preparation goes beyond academic instruction; it includes career counseling, internship opportunities, and networking events. By connecting students with industry professionals and providing real-world experiences, universities help students build the skills and confidence needed to succeed in their chosen fields.

At ADU, our top priority is to make our students confident, knowledgeable, and ready for the marketplace. The university's graduate attributes are one of the mechanisms to help achieve this. The two MC students reminded me of our students at ADU when they act as MCs; they are charismatic, confident, and engaging.

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