EDUCATION IN THE MODERN WORLD

As a liberal arts college Black Mountain College is necessarily concerned with the essential problems of the times. Today these problems are world-wide. They have grown beyond the horizons of individual, group or nation. But they must be understood by individuals and solved by individuals. This generation will have acute need of both vision and practical competence.

To educate today, then, must mean to broaden outlook and to provide a setting where theory can be confronted with evidence, a laboratory where thought can be tested by action. Black Mountain College as a community is such a laboratory. The College, from its beginning, has recognized and sought to develop the special functions that a community can serve in general education. While carrying on the traditional disciplines of college education, the College seeks to combine the cultivation of imaginative thought with training in accurate reasoning; it attempts to develop foresight by emphasizing the search for fundamental principles that underlie transitory forms, and to show that knowledge must be linked with a will to act. It can reveal to what ends cooperation and competition each lead, and bring into balance work directed toward individual development and work done in the general interest of a group.

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