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Ohio University College of Arts & Sciences, "Vedder in Forbes | Alternatives To Traditional College: Two-Year Vocational Business Schools" (2019). *All Forum Articles*. 6212.

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# Vedder in Forbes | Alternatives To Traditional College: Two-Year Vocational Business Schools

February 3, 2019

Categories: Faculty in the News, In the News

Tags: economics news, faculty in the news, in the news, Richard Vedder



Dr. Richard Vedder

**Dr. Richard Vedder**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Economics at Ohio University, authored a column in Forbes headlined “[Alternatives To Traditional College: Two-Year Vocational Business Schools –Become A Court Reporter.](#)”

Total college enrollments in America’s institutions of higher education are lower today than in 2012, in large part because a growing number of Americans think traditional universities are too expensive. They see a high risk of either not completing a degree or having difficulty in getting a high-paying job after graduation, even in this favorable labor market environment. Yet there are some types of postsecondary education that are lower-risk, cheaper, and probably on average offer more bang for the buck. I wondered: what has happened to the many business schools that operated a century ago that provided medium-level skills such as shorthand to high school graduates over the course of a year or two of study? Many, I know, disappeared with the rapid expansion of relatively inexpensive four-year state universities after World War II as well as technological changes centered around computers. But not all of them. Do the remaining ones offer forms of training that are relatively less risky and less costly than four-year schools?

I talked to the president of MacCormac College, a small (roughly 300 students) not-for-profit school in downtown Chicago that has trained people for mostly business-related jobs since 1904....

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