

About Kepler Space Institute

By Walter Putnam

Kepler Space Institute (KSI) is a for-profit corporation in the State of Florida. It founded the *Journal of Space Philosophy* in 2009 and is in 2014 designing academic programs to be offered when the registration process in Florida is completed.

What We Believe

We believe in personalized education to meet the individual needs of all who enroll in Kepler Space Institute programs or courses. Members of our faculty have had long experience with traditional universities. We have learned what works and what does not.

We have experienced large campuses sub-optimized into competing departments bloated with bureaucracy. We have watched administration and tenured faculty salaries climb, forcing student tuition rates to rise. We have seen poor teaching ignored while unions focused on protecting jobs by firing the last hired younger teachers. We do not believe a huge campus with large overhead expenses is needed with today's technology. We have watched U.S. education quality decline by international standards. There is a linkage of less-educated Americans and jobs going to better-educated men and women overseas.

We believe that everyone has unique skills, needs and circumstances. A teach-all-the-same-way strategy fits no one. Standardization in the classroom eliminates teacher innovation and creativity and crushes student interest. Asian nations that have traditionally used standard and rote learning are changing to methods that encourage creativity and measure learning.

Excellence in education is a Pareto optimum where many are better off and no one is worse off. When education fails, everyone is worse off. We believe that anyone with Internet access should have educational opportunities. We believe each should learn at his or her own pace. We believe that requiring students to learn theory in isolation of any application to their needs wastes their time and resources. Learning should have immediate application. We believe that creative thinking, problem identification, and problem solving are priority educational goals.

We believe that today's open-source online learning platforms are as good as the high-priced ones that trap many universities with long contracts and sometimes with technology departments influencing academic curricula by controlling processes. Our reduced learning-management system costs permit us to keep tuition fees low and academics in control.

If you share these beliefs, join us. We believe we can help you accelerate your desired education.

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About the Author: Walter Putnam is a veteran journalist and former Middle East correspondent who retired in 2009 after a career of more than 30 years with the Associated Press. He first developed a serious interest in space research and development while helping to cover Shuttle launches and landings for AP in Florida in the early 1980s, when he was the agency's Jacksonville correspondent. After his retirement, Walt became Kepler Space Institute's dean of media communications in addition to serving on the KSI Board of Directors. He is the President of the United States Chapter of Space Renaissance International (SRI) and a member of the National Space Society. He also writes fiction under the pen name Rome Collier, including the short novels *The Second Coming* and *The Planet of Games*, which deal with a belief that human values are enduring because of their universal nature. Walt's wife of 45 years, Geni, a retired Delta Air Lines flight attendant, is an avid volunteer for KSI activities, helping out at space conventions on several occasions. They have three adult children, who all are involved in the arts in one form or another.

