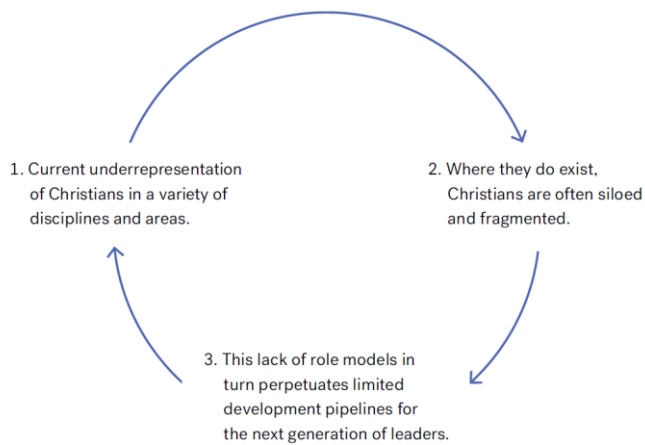


## Chapter 3 Detail – Every Student and The Great Opportunity Report

(This is an independent analysis by Every Student Sent and does not represent any form of endorsement by The Great Opportunity and it's authors) For questions or recommendations, contact [john.decker@everystudentsent.org](mailto:john.decker@everystudentsent.org)

Key Principles and Recommendations	Every Student Sent Contribution
<p><b>CHAPTER 3: Equip and Send Youth Into Missions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sometimes the best defense is a good offense. We believe that part of the way one is discipled is by making disciples. As was discussed earlier, today's youth hold the greatest promise for reaching the next generation with the Gospel. Historically, great movements of faith have been catalyzed by mission-minded youth. In many cases, the very act of moving out in faith creates the context for faith to be strengthened and confirmed. It is our desire to see the next generation mobilized for missions for the sake of those both inside and outside the church.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When juniors and seniors are prepared for mission at college, they see tangible examples of what God is doing and the youth group becomes a cohort</li> <li>Priming the pump in the church. A major reason for high school student apathy is that they have not personally experienced the power of the Holy Spirit transforming one of their unchurched friends. The easiest place for this to happen to them is during the first weeks of college when pre-believers are most open to new things and new friends, and is easiest done in teams as in the College Awakening Sweet-Spot and creates a love for the Gospel and Jesus that is contagious. The ESS process encourages these first semester freshmen and their former youth leaders to hold a January Student Experience Night, which then ignites the youth group and encourages them to adopt their local high school with ESS partner ministries like Campus Alliance, YFC, Young Life, FCA,</li> </ul>
<p><b>P64. Encourage youth into missional life in the church directly.</b> There are literally millions of stories of young people whose faith was strengthened when they began to evangelize, teach, and lead themselves. Alpha International has seen tremendous success with their Youth Series, which has substantially lowered the barriers for young people to discuss faith with their peers. In fact, the model has thrived, with young people, who were only recently invited to the discussions, becoming Christians and then immediately leading Alpha themselves!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ESS is built on the premise of helping teens reach their peers by helping them do so in teams and with equipping content developed by ESS and via partners.</li> <li>The ESS social platform already has built-in groups for every university and high school in America. Churches easily add their groups.</li> <li>Examples of groups and resources churches can use include             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High school and college <a href="#">Student Mobilizer Groups</a></li> <li><a href="#">Alpha Youth to College</a> integration groups</li> <li><a href="#">Mobilized for Mission training and groups</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>P65.</b> Active integration of young people into the missions leadership of the church. Creating a highly participatory culture, with youth actively serving in the mission of the church, is a tremendous way to help keep youth engaged.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using the resources in ESS Student Mobilizer groups, students can help other teens in their church or city be ready for college mission.</li> <li>Leadership minded teens can be encouragers in pre-college ESS online groups headed to their future university.</li> </ul>
<p><b>P100.</b> To do both well, we believe we need to reinvest, like we once did, in leadership development <b>pipelines</b> that equip emerging leaders to articulate the Gospel persuasively and with distinction in the world.</p> <p>We also think we need to invest in and help convene <b>Christian academic and thought leaders</b> who inhabit the front lines of thought and discovery and are wrestling with the ideas of our time. It is as Mark Noll wrote over two decades ago: "The scandal of the Evangelical mind is that there is not much of one."</p> <p><b>But ideas only shape culture when they get legs.</b> We want to bridge the perceived gap between the life of the mind and the life of the church in order to resuscitate a thoughtful, public witness that both responds to and drives how we should engage with the world around us.</p> <p><b>P101</b> How do we go about creating this cultural plausibility? History and sociology both point to the influence of what sociologists call "<b>dense networks</b>" of cultural leaders who are closely collaborating towards a common mission.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Pipelines</b> – Campus Renewal has years of experience creating missional communities within academic departments. We are now ready to deploy this nationally so that leaders can be developed via hands on experience for each academic department, then transition to the workplace. The goal is to grow the Christian community within that department and influence the culture including professors and leadership. The goal is to make that department different than when they came, along with the cumulative effect over many years of students.</li> <li><b>Academic thought leaders.</b> ESS is building from its Cru and InterVarsity partnerships to more fully incorporate Christian faculty into ESS groups to convene with each other. The technology allows public, private and hidden groups. Such faculty will also often connect with academic department missional communities.</li> </ul>

**P103.** We've focused our work specifically within higher education, as we think this is where the major gap in the leadership development pipeline exists. We think there is **a cycle preventing the ongoing formation of Christian thought leaders in our society.**



- **Dense Networks** – ESS helps all university cultural leaders to collaborate towards the common mission of university transformation, and flourishing in the surrounding city.
- **Higher Education Leadership Cycle** - reversing the 70% drop off increases the field of believers at the university. As they learn leadership in discipling their academic departments, more workers are available in each of these disciplines. A unified network can be created in the university with a common goal of transformation and flourishing with each of the component academic departments making progress locally and being augmented by the corresponding national ESS academic groups with students, professors, professional societies, and marketplace ministries. See [Every Student Sent - Marketplace](#)
- **Note: Education Departments:** Consider the positive effect of the Spirit on missional communities within Education departments that are producing today's elementary, middle school, and high school teachers and administrators.