18.

Unite the disciplines

Art and science need each other. Discoveries—great and small—happen when the two come together; so give students places for cross-disciplinary work, and who knows what creative genius will flourish.

Stephen Heppell, one of the United Kingdom’s leading learning consultants, talks about “mutuality,” about the importance of recognizing the connectedness of humanity, and about how we need each other for real learning and understanding to happen. Scientific research is leading the way on this, with projects that require diverse disciplines. For example, there’s The Blue Brain Project—it’s a research project that’s attempting to simulate the micro-circuitry of the cerebral cortex. To understand the workings of the human brain like that, you need neurologists, psychiatrists, cognitive scientists, computer scientists, designers, artists—all of them collaborating. Mutuality is front and center.

— Trung Le, OWP/P