

## **EDUCATING A NEW GENERATION: MILLENNIALS IN THE CLASSROOM**

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### **Abstract**

Three generations with distinct characteristics and differences are found in today's university classrooms. Each generation has a unique set of traits that can influence a variety of aspects, including teaching and learning. Generally, a wide age gap exists between faculty and traditional college students. Today's Baby Boomer (and increasingly Gen X) university educators are challenged with how to best reach and teach Millennial students. This new audience has new needs and expectations.

A growing body of evidence reveals that Millennial students have developed new attitudes and aptitudes as a result of their environment (Oblinger, 2003). Although these characteristics may provide great advantages in some areas (such as their ability to use technology), they may also create an imbalance between student learning styles and faculty teaching styles.

The purpose of this position paper is to explore the unique characteristics of the Millennial generation and discuss potential adaptations for accommodating the Millennial student.

References Available upon Request