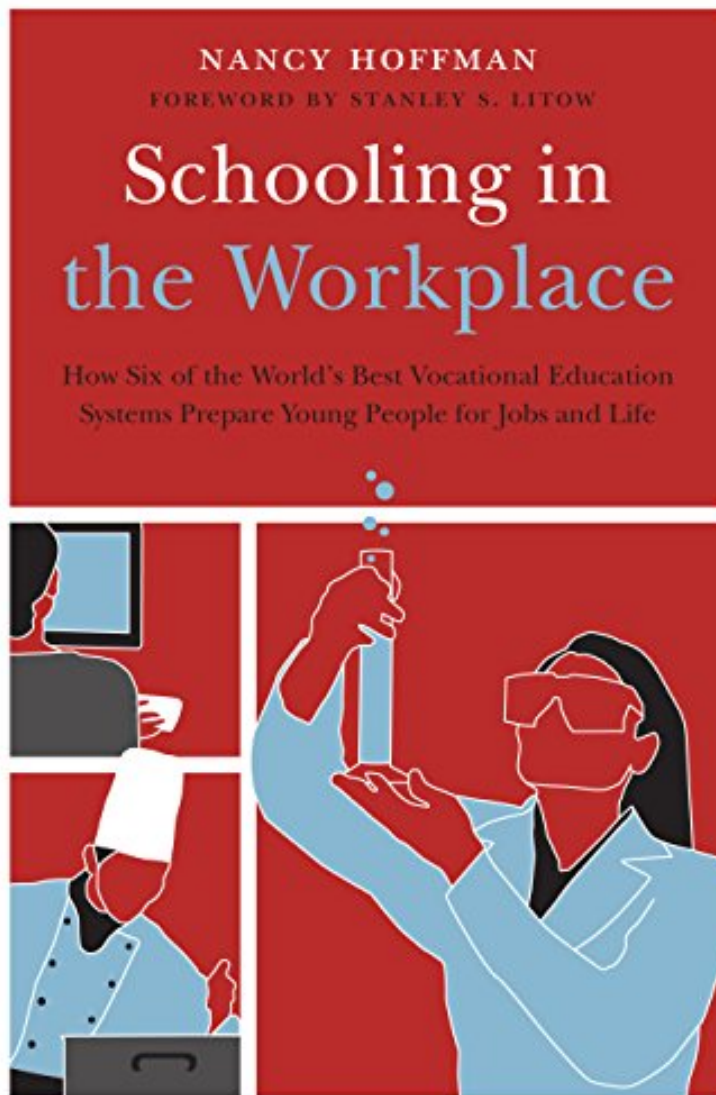


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Schooling in the Workplace: How Six of the World's Best Vocational Education Systems Prepare Young People for Jobs and Life

Nancy Hoffman

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Nancy Hoffman : Schooling in the Workplace: How Six of the World's Best Vocational Education Systems Prepare Young People for Jobs and Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Schooling in the Workplace: How Six of the World's Best Vocational Education Systems Prepare Young People for Jobs and Life:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. **MAKES YOU THINK**By Vesna RafatyAs COO at DylanListed LLC, I picked up this book out of curiosity, desire to be more knowledgeable, conversant on the theme of transition (school to employment) for youth. While the book indeed does not at all focus on youth transition for special needs youth (our focus at DylanListed LLC), it caused me to look at the theme of transition for special needs youth as part of the broader theme of transition for ALL American youth. And in that area, we in the US indeed are lacking. We, for starters, don't have the established, statutory schemes, and resultant apprenticeship markets, of our friends in Europe. Dr. Hoffman's thoughtful look at the Swiss system, as one being closer to our labor regulation scheme than other country systems she studied, was helpful. In the US we are experimenting with tripartite (government-academia-private sector) partnerships to jumpstart workforce systems, but such partnerships are ambitious, not easy to manage, measure. And we rely on the creativity of the private sector, which has for the most part historically been reluctant to invest in youth training (excluding a few notable business models, such as P-TECH schools, cooperative universities, that Dr. Hoffman expounds). I am glad that Secretary Perez of DOL has benchmarked European systems recently. This book is an excellent reference for those seeking to influence public policy in this area. Thank you Dr. Hoffman!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. **Excellent. Thorough and persuasive.**By Thomas RemingtonClearly lays out the case for improving the US system of education to give young people much better foundations for success in school, careers, and life. Stresses the variety of systems of dual school-workplace-based education in countries such as Germany, Switzerland, Australia, Norway and the Netherlands. Shows that engagement by employers and employer organizations is crucial, and that federal, state, and local governments can play a key catalytic role in forging partnerships among schools, governments, and individuals.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. **Outstanding Book**By SkillsresearchI found this to be a wonderful book and raises some very interesting ideas around Vocational Education. I very much like the International perspective.

Which non-American education systems best prepare young people for fulfilling jobs and successful adult lives? And what can the United States—where far too many young people currently enter adulthood without adequate preparation for the twenty-first-century job market—learn, adopt, and adapt from these other systems? In *Schooling in the Workplace*, Nancy Hoffman addresses these questions head on, arguing that “the smartest and quickest route to a wide variety of occupations for the majority of young people in the successful countries—not a default for failing students—is a vocational program that integrates work and learning.” As she notes, the programs that successfully integrate work and learning all share a fundamental commitment to helping young people find successful careers: “The purpose is not ‘college for all,’ as in the United States today, but rather to provide the education and training young people need to prepare for a career or calling.” *Schooling in the Workplace* explores the vocational education programs in a wide range of countries, focusing in rich and useful detail on six in particular: Australia, Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, and Switzerland. Framing these discussions, however, is a persistent focus on American circumstances and challenges. Far more than a survey of six “foreign” programs, this is a book prompted by and organized around the policy and practical challenges facing the United States.

“I enthusiastically endorse Hoffman’s final suggestion to the reader: ‘Buy a plane ticket to one of the strong VET countries, talk to employers, see young people at work, and decide for yourself whether the system performs as described here.’ Before you travel, I whole-heartedly recommend that you read this book.”—Roland Osterlund, Center on International Education Benchmarking