

Soft Skills

How can we better prepare students for the workforce?

Grade Point • Perspective

Forget coding that's what s

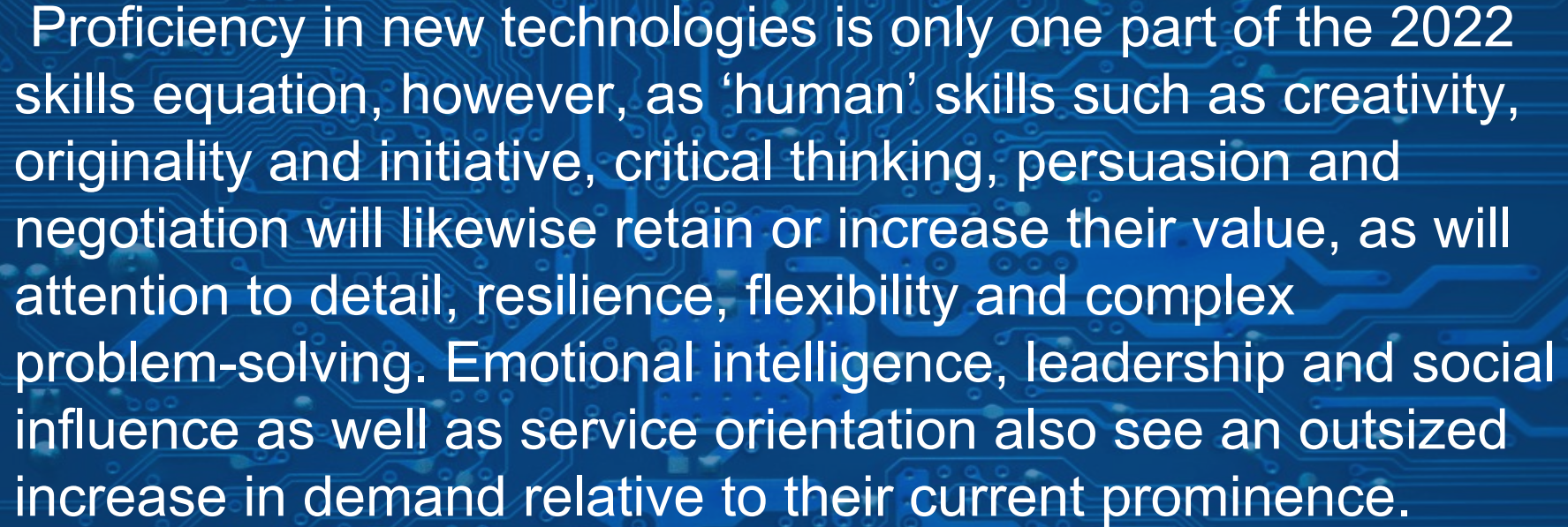


(Mark Felix/AP Photo/The Orange County Register)

That employers need to even ask for soft skills indicates an underlying anxiety many recruiters have expressed in survey after survey about the job readiness of college graduates. While a college degree may be the strongest signal that someone is ready, it's become increasingly less reliable than it once was, in part because it doesn't indicate that students know the soft skills. The degree mostly indicates they had the discipline to finish a task.

The U.S. education system — especially beginning in middle and high schools when teaching to the test tends to crowd out the project-based and play-based learning of elementary schools — rarely emphasizes development of the soft skills.

That was the message LinkedIn's CEO, Jeff Weiner, delivered in Washington this month to highlight data from what the company calls its economic graph — a digital representation of the global economy using data from member profiles and job advertisements. Weiner urged K-12 and higher education to focus on four core skills: critical reasoning, creative problem solving, collaboration and basic digital fluency.



Proficiency in new technologies is only one part of the 2022 skills equation, however, as 'human' skills such as creativity, originality and initiative, critical thinking, persuasion and negotiation will likewise retain or increase their value, as will attention to detail, resilience, flexibility and complex problem-solving. Emotional intelligence, leadership and social influence as well as service orientation also see an outsized increase in demand relative to their current prominence.

Source: World Economic Forum
The Future of Jobs Report 2018

Skills Required for the Future of Work

- Analytical thinking
- Understand “big data” and solutions
- Service orientation
- Technological proficiency
- Programming
- Creativity
- Persuasion and negotiation
- Complex problem-solving
- Attention to detail
- Leadership
- Emotional intelligence
- Dealing with ambiguity
- Active learning
- Critical thinking
- Situational leadership

So the
question is..



What are YOUR next steps?

