

# Jeff Selingo proposes Netflix-style education that is flexible



**Jeff Selingo** says that it's worth **investing in higher education**, and states that it is necessary to move towards **flexible universities**.

According to the expert and best-selling author, **the education of the future will be like choosing a series or movie on Netflix**: everyone will have access to the same thing, but at a different pace.

*"We stopped having a 'TV schedule,' which required us to be at home on time to watch a program. Now we can watch it at any time. We can watch a single episode or binge-watch all of the episodes.*

Selingo participated as a speaker during the **International Conference on Educational Innovation (CIE for its initials in Spanish)** from [Tec de Monterrey](#).



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### **Netflix-style education that's flexible**

Selingo said that the value of education will be in things that are **less episodic**. You won't have to stop what you're doing **to go to school**.

*"I compare it to streaming movies and TV series. We can watch and repeat them at any time. There is much more flexibility. You and I can watch the same show, but in a different way. That will happen in higher education.*

*"For me, this is very similar for the **universities of the future**. Are you going to stop your life just to show up on campus on a Tuesday at 3 p.m. to take a class? No. We all need to have more flexibility," he said.*

### **Towards a flexible university model**

The author said that the world must invest in education because it is greatly needed.

*"In many ways, **education** and **higher education** are going to be the next natural resource." Now, creating a higher education system is the equivalent of the **space race** 40 or 50 years ago."*

Selingo said that there have also been many questions about **equity during the pandemic**.

*“We have this idea that we can’t leave a large part of the population behind. And we know that education is the key to **social mobility**, so these countries are investing in that.”*

### **Universities are not prepared, he says**

Selingo believes that only a minority are prepared for the changes, but the pandemic presents a good opportunity to change how we learn and teach.

*“Only a small minority of universities are ready for this. Higher education is something of a long tradition. It has been around for a long time. **This is more difficult in Mexico and other developed countries.**”*

*“There are universities that are older than the countries themselves. Harvard is older than the United States. As a result, **it’s very difficult to change.**”*

He said it’s like the arrival of cellphones in countries where they didn’t even have landlines.

*“This could happen with higher education: if they don’t have the system and they don’t have the infrastructure, they can build something from scratch.”*

### **He doesn’t foresee quality education being free**

The expert doesn’t believe it possible to have quality higher education that is free.

*“Higher education is labor intensive. It requires a lot of research and infrastructure. I don’t think it’s possible.”*

He pointed out that part of the problem with education around the world is that it used to be a collaboration between institutions, government, and the people, but it has been thrown out of balance in the last 40 years.

*“Governments and institutions have withdrawn many of the contributions. That means that a lot of the burden ends up on the student and that for me is worrying.”*

He added that partnerships would help ensure quality and make sure that everyone is growing in the same direction.

*“We run into problems when one person does more than everyone else, for example, students or the government.”*

Selingo’s books have appeared on The New York Times Best Seller list. He has written for the Washington Post and is a frequent contributor to [The Atlantic](#).

### **The eighth annual CIIE from Tec de Monterrey**

This is the **eighth [International Congress on Educational Innovation](#)** from Tec de Monterrey.

The event takes place **annually**. This time, it was held in a **hybrid format** for 4 days from **December 13 to 16, 2021**.

*“(The **CIIE**) has established itself as an **outstanding space** for the **meeting of professionals** from different parts of the world. We involve everyone who has the **co-responsibility** of creating the future of education,”* said José Escamilla, director of the Institute for the Future of Education at the Tec.

This year, more than **5,000 attendees** participated with the opportunity to listen to discussions and keynotes on **education**.

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