

# Several Issues Urgently Needed to be Studied in Building a High-Level Practice-Based Higher Education System

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To Link this Article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.6007/IJARPED/v12-i4/20407>

DOI:10.6007/IJARPED/v12-i4/20407

Published Online: 27 December 2023

## Abstract

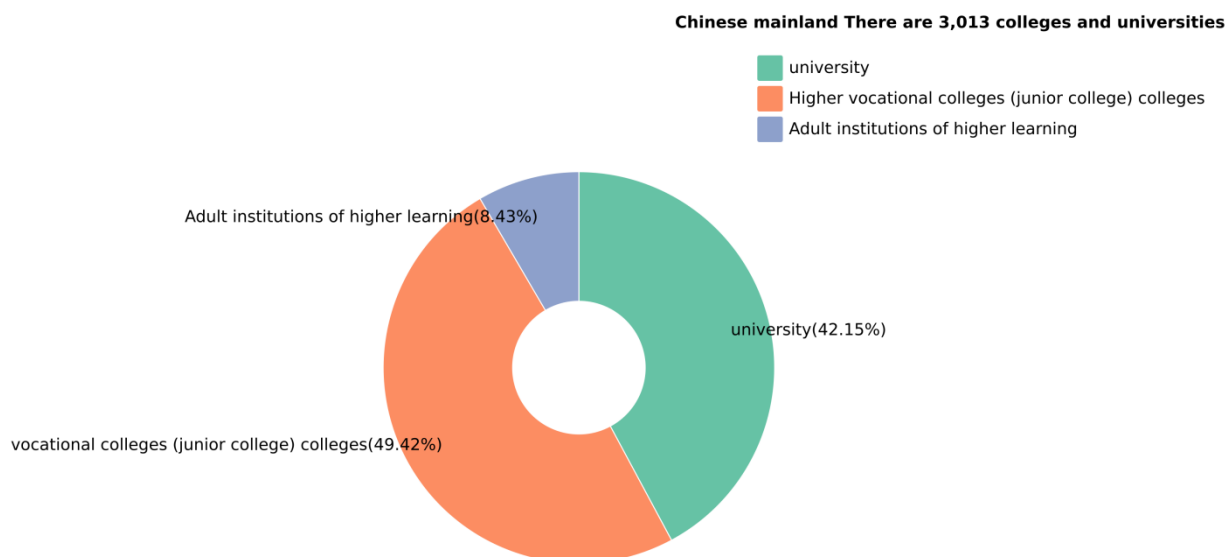
With the rapid development of the productive forces of socialism with Chinese characteristics, in order to meet the needs of socialism with Chinese characteristics for talents of various specifications and diversified needs, our colleges and universities are sparing no effort to meet the total needs of the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics economy and the development of social productive forces. Against this background, an important feature of the popularisation or even massification of higher education has arisen. An important feature of higher education has arisen, which is the refinement of the focus of education. Because of this, colleges and universities are bound to choose the strategy of staggered development and the strategy of practical characteristic development. Since the new era of China's socialist higher education (the restoration of the general college entrance examination system in 1977), industrialisation and socialist economic development have been in urgent need of application-oriented talents. Horizontal application-oriented colleges and universities have gradually become one of the major strategies for the development of national higher education, and their primacy has gradually increased. Under the new economic situation of "internal circulation" of the country, the Ministry of Education has formulated corresponding policies to encourage and support the development of applied colleges and universities. Therefore, the construction of applied colleges and universities in China should be based on the construction of a high-level practice-oriented tertiary education system, and the first task and intuitive results of the construction of this system, the important guarantee, a series of major issues will be discussed and explored one by one in this paper.

**Keywords:** Chinese University Education, Practice-Based, Higher Education System, Applied Universities, Teaching-Industry Integration

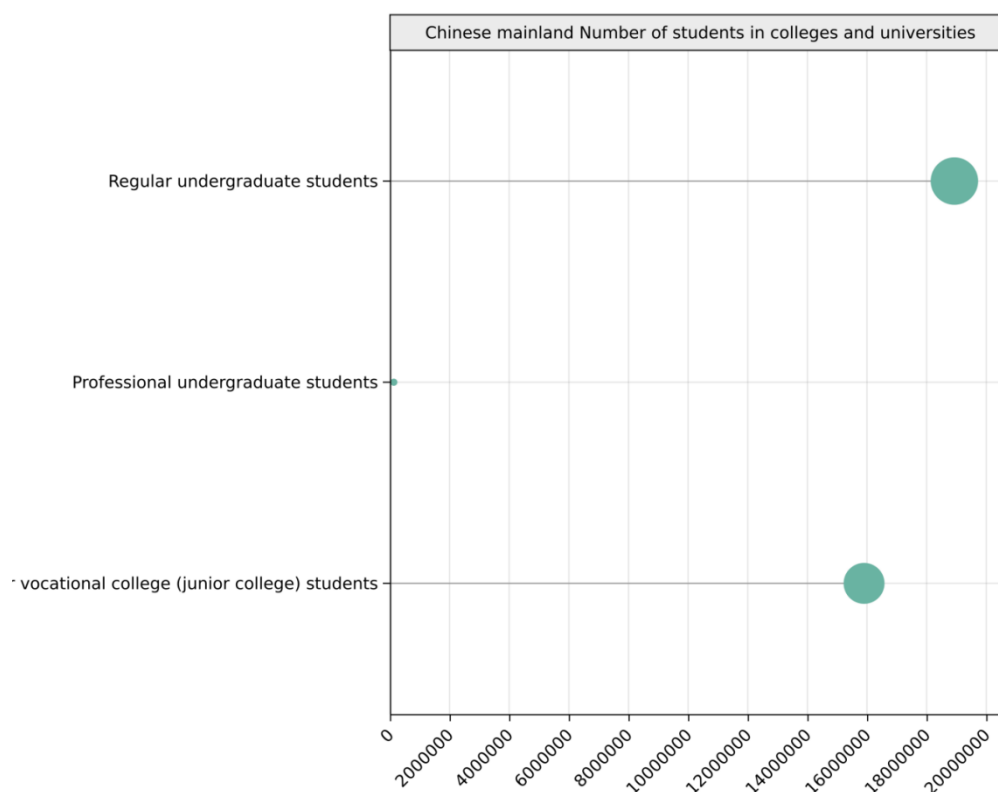
## Introduction

Since China's reform and opening up, as of 31 May 2022, there were a total of 3,013 institutions of higher education in mainland China, of which 2,759 were ordinary institutions

of higher education, including 1,270 undergraduate colleges and 1,489 colleges and universities of higher vocational education (colleges and universities); and 254 were adult institutions of higher education. This has formed the largest undergraduate education system on earth, and this huge volume has provided high-quality human resources for the development of China's socialist economy. However, at the same time, there are also problems such as the rise in the number of students, but the quality of teaching at the university has not been improved along with it, so how to find out where these problems lie and propose solutions to solve them is the purpose and motivation of this study.



Along with China's accession to the World Trade Organisation, these undergraduate colleges and universities need to be more deeply adapted to the needs of China's development in various fields, and our higher education workers should more actively explore the development path of applied undergraduate colleges and universities, and at the same time, set up a more diversified and comprehensive high-level practical higher education system for college students, whose ability to know and do is an important aspect we focus on cultivating. From the essential point of view, applied colleges and universities are to allow students to solve all kinds of problems arising in actual production through their own learning, and ultimately to achieve the purpose of learning to use, so as to better serve the society. So this is particularly important for China's applied universities. However, under the background of economic and social transformation from high-speed growth to steady growth, Chinese higher education is also facing many new problems and challenges, especially under the new economic situation of "inner cycle" of the country, and after the new construction goal is put forward, all institutions will endeavour to improve the quality of personnel training as one of the important work contents, and how to improve students' practical and innovative ability, and cultivate applied talents has become one of the most important tasks for the universities. How to improve students' practical innovation ability and cultivate applied talents has become a major issue in front of every educator. For this reason, we must actively explore the talent training mode innovation strategy of applied higher education institutions under the new situation. Only in this way can we achieve the goal of cultivating talents in applied undergraduate colleges and universities, and can truly deliver high-quality technical and skilled specialists for the country. This paper takes applied undergraduate colleges and



universities as an example to explore the construction of high-level practice-oriented higher education system research, I hope to be able to bring a certain reference for relevant workers to learn from the significance of China's education reform and development of the road to provide ideas and references.

The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) proposed to "accelerate the construction of first-class universities and first-class disciplines, and realise the connotative development of higher education", and the Education Conference of the Chinese mainland even requested universities to "focus on cultivating innovative, complex and application-oriented talents".

There are a total of 34,961,300 students enrolled in general and vocational undergraduate and specialised courses in mainland China, of whom 18,930,000 are enrolled in general undergraduate courses, 129,300 in vocational undergraduate courses, and 15,910,000 in higher vocational (specialised) courses. And at present, China's undergraduate talent cultivation has problems such as being out of touch with social demand.

Based on this, the article starts from the national strategic level, combines the past development experience, and argues that after socialism with Chinese characteristics enters into the new era, Chinese colleges and universities should put forward new requirements on how to improve the quality of teaching and enhance the ability of the students in the teaching work of the teachers in colleges and universities on the basis of the clear positioning of running schools. At the same time, it is pointed out that the quality of teachers as higher education institutions directly determines the quality of school education as well as the level of talent cultivation. Only a high-quality teaching team can provide high-quality education services for college students. Therefore, the construction of teaching staff is one of the keys to running a high-level university. It can be seen that our higher education workers have a sacred mission, great responsibility and arduous task.

**Building Virtue as a Fundamental Task**

China's colleges and universities should first take moral education as the fundamental idea, and must adhere to the moral construction as the fundamental way, establish moral education as the fundamental task, run the ideological and political work of colleges and universities through the whole process of education and teaching, comprehensively carry out the educational policies and guidelines of the Communist Party of China; set up a scientific moral education evaluation system, and give full play to the important role of moral education in cultivating qualified talents; strengthen the cultural construction of the campus, and create a good campus cultural atmosphere; strengthen the construction of the teaching staff and improve the ideological and moral level and professional moral quality of teachers. To achieve moral education for all students, including the whole process and all-round education.

Classroom learning is the first channel through which students acquire knowledge and ideas. Undergraduate colleges and universities must cultivate first-class Applied skills talents, while at the same time with a solid theory of the discipline, in the whole process of education and teaching must insist on Ideological and political work must be maintained in the whole process of education and teaching. This work plays an important role in the education system of colleges and universities, while teachers in the traditional teaching mode only teach theoretical knowledge and professional skills, without focusing on the ideological and political education of college students, and therefore can not meet the needs of the current socialist development. Therefore, it is necessary to integrate the ideological and political programmes into classroom teaching. Through the construction of a high-level practice-oriented higher education system and institutions, teachers of ideological and political courses, teachers of professional and technical courses, teachers of ideological and political work and existing social resources should be integrated into a "common system of education". This system consists of four aspects: first, to improve the team of teachers of ideological and political theory courses in colleges and universities; second, to build a mechanism for guiding college students in their career planning; third, to form a student-centred talent training model; and fourth, to improve and implement a long-term mechanism for "cultivating morality and nurturing people". On this basis, the ideological and political theory to play out the role of the main channel at the same time, and actively explore the characteristics of the socialist ideological and political theory system of course construction, and the corresponding professional courses into a "trinity" of ideological and political education and teaching system, which is the reality of the need for colleges and universities to cultivate moral and talented people under the new situation. To give full play to the ideological and political theory courses in the overall development of college students in the guiding function and incentive function, through the strengthening of practical links, rich teaching content and other ways to enhance its effectiveness. It is necessary to innovate teaching methods, while forming a synergistic effect, and gradually realising the organic unity between the two aspects of education and teaching.

Applied undergraduate colleges and universities should take into account their own characteristics and disciplinary advantages, optimise the allocation of curriculum resources, and perfect the ideological and political teaching programmes of courses in different professional contexts. Improve the ideological and political teaching programme of courses in different professional contexts, and focus on combining with the actual in the teaching content; highlight the concept of humanistic quality education, so that students can master scientific and cultural knowledge and improve their comprehensive quality through learning; integrate the ideological and political education into the professional curriculum, and

promote the connection of theory to practice; and strengthen the construction of practical links, and enhance the practical teaching. Lead the cultivation of value elements and ways of thinking into the original curriculum professional teaching. It is also integrated into the education and teaching of various disciplines; find the most suitable focus point for each major, integrate the correct socialist core values and education and teaching content that must be conveyed in ideological and political education into the rich professional curriculum, build a bridge between classroom teaching and social practice, so that college students can truly understand the essence of the socialist core value system, so as to achieve the learning and application. Like a chef, it cooks up more delicious, nutritious and profound courses. Focus on improving students' value judgement, correct value selection and shaping their personal qualities, so that they can form correct values in their professional learning; pay attention to the practicality of the classroom teaching process and cultivate students' ability to solve practical problems; improve teachers' own quality and promote the reform and development of the curriculum; and focus on the construction of campus culture and the creation of a good teaching atmosphere, so as to achieve the effective integration of moral education and professional knowledge.

### **Integration of education and industry is the way to go**

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out in the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China that "deepen the integration of industry and education, and cooperation between schools and enterprises". It puts forward new requirements for the work of the majority of colleges and universities, and at the same time, it is also the key for colleges and universities to promote the connotation construction and further innovative development in the new period. At present, China's higher education is in the stage of transformation and upgrading, facing a series of challenges and opportunities. As an important position for cultivating applied talents, applied undergraduate colleges and universities should comply with the needs of social and economic development, accelerate the pace of reform of their own talent cultivation mode, improve the quality of education and teaching, and realise good and fast development of the school. As undergraduate colleges and universities of general higher education, the construction of applied undergraduate education is an important strategic task for higher education to realise its connotative development at present. In order to accomplish such a strategic task, the deep integration of social production and higher education is an inevitable trend, in which high-quality talents who meet the local economic and social needs and have certain practical ability are cultivated. The school-enterprise cooperation mode of school running can well meet this requirement. Therefore, colleges and universities must actively promote school-enterprise cooperation in school running. Cultivating young talents who are useful to the construction of socialism is the core and soul of the reform of higher education; and the talent cultivation mode of combining industry and education based on the cooperation between industries, universities and research institutes is one of the most effective paths to choose in this trend. It is both a feasible and a necessary path.

Under the influence of the background of "double first-class" universities and disciplines construction, if applied undergraduate colleges and universities want to really find their own position and their own development path, they must first solve the limitations of insufficient innovation ability, break through the lack of a clear philosophy of running a school, the lack of a perfect management system, the lack of effective incentives and other limitations. And as an opportunity to further enhance the core competitiveness of the school. Fully explore its

own professional characteristics and lead the trend of innovation. Through the deep integration of social industrial production and professional skills education, China's higher education has formed a new historical period by combining with production and labour; however, there are some problems that cannot be ignored: such as unclear cultivation objectives and rigid talent cultivation mode. These problems hinder the rapid and healthy development of China's economy and society. Therefore, the development of universities and colleges should endeavour to achieve a positive shift from limited integration into various economic and social fields to unimpeded integration.

First of all, it is necessary to strengthen the education and teaching of the professional industry background, and endeavour to raise the awareness of serving the enterprises. Promote the innovation of practice-oriented higher education system and system, deeply integrate the industrial activities of related industries, and establish "enterprise mentor-type teaching team" relying on enterprises in related industries. We should deeply integrate the industrial activities of the relevant industries, establish an "enterprise tutor-type faculty" relying on the enterprises in the relevant industries, introduce senior part-time teachers from the industries and senior technicians with front-line practical ability in the enterprises as lecturers, and build a multi-level and multi-type curriculum system which mainly focuses on cultivating applied talents and also takes into account the cultivation of academic and research talents.

Secondly, it is necessary to increase government support, formulate and improve the corresponding policies and regulations, actively create a favourable atmosphere conducive to the development of school-enterprise cooperation in school running, vigorously promote the deep integration of industry, academia and research, and enhance the level of students' skills in solving practical problems through the mode of school-enterprise cooperation and training. Secondly, we should further improve the construction of the curriculum system of higher vocational colleges and universities, focusing on the main line of course content design based on the needs of employment groups; highlighting the applicability, practicality and vocational characteristics of the teaching content to promote the construction of a diversified teaching staff; and secondly, through the combination of teaching and production, and intervene in the cutting-edge information of technology to improve students' interest in learning new knowledge and skills.

Finally, in the practical teaching link, attention is paid to cultivating students' ability to solve practical problems in order to meet the needs of the development of modern society. Realise the connection between talent cultivation and social productivity. The last is to accelerate the effective transformation of university research achievements into actual social productivity through the integration of education and industry and the transformation of scientific and technological achievements, to form a complete industrial ecosystem, to improve the conversion rate of achievements, so as to achieve a win-win situation for the economy and science and technology, and to ultimately promote the organic link between the education chain, the industrial chain and the talent chain. Promoting the formation of a true integration of social production and education is the fundamental purpose of the reform of the applied personnel training model. We should promote the construction and improvement of the "dual-teacher" teacher team by building a long-term mechanism. In the training process, the practical teaching link should be highlighted, so as to achieve the goal of improving the quality of applied personnel training and industrial enterprise productivity.



**Adaptation of societies to development needs**

Applied undergraduate colleges and universities urgently need to change their thinking of running schools from teaching to serving the local economy and social development, and at the same time, adhere to their own positioning, in the new economic situation of the country's "inner circle", the school serves the local social production, cultivates talents for the locality, strengthens local scientific research capacity, and promotes the construction of the local culture. The school will serve the local social production, train talents for the local community, enhance the local scientific research capacity, promote the local culture, and realise the win-win interaction between the school and the local community. The school will improve the quality of teaching and satisfy the social demand by establishing teaching teams, strengthening the cultivation of practical skills of the students, increasing the publicity of scientific research achievements, and attaching importance to the construction of skillful teaching staffs. We will continue to deepen the teaching reform, promote the connection with local industries, enterprises and local governments, deepen the cooperation, and endeavour to build an alliance of school and enterprise development with knowledge, culture and technological innovation as the core, so as to improve the level of economic, social and cultural development of the region.

Applied undergraduate colleges and universities must actively undertake and master the research and development of new technologies, pay attention to the pace of development of global emerging industries and social construction, and constantly expand their service functions in talent training; they should make full use of the advantages of the university's complete range of disciplines and strengthen the reform of the institutional mechanism for the combination of industry and education; and they should aim to cultivate innovative talents that meet the needs of local economic development, and build up a school-running mode with special characteristics. Give full play to the advantages of scientific and technological research capabilities to meet regional needs, combine regional advantages, integrate regional industries and educational resources, establish a close link between the industrial chain and innovation chain and the practice-oriented higher education system, and promote the close integration of the superior discipline groups and the emerging industrial chain. Integrate technological innovation, support technological innovation, and provide technical and intellectual support for the industrial upgrading of industrial enterprises; establish a close integration with the needs of regional economic development. From the viewpoint of discipline structure, with "application" as the main line, we will build a curriculum system that meets the characteristics of the profession itself and adapts to the needs of the industry, and make reasonable adjustments and optimisations on the basis of this, so as to achieve the goal of talent cultivation and improve the quality of teaching. With the strengthening of applied discipline construction, the matching degree between applied undergraduate discipline construction and local economic and social development can be greatly improved, and at the same time, it promotes the formation of the ecological system of symbiosis and sharing between industry and education.

The development of higher education can adhere to the principle of "building applied undergraduate colleges and universities", relying on the academic, disciplinary and professional advantages of the university, strengthening research in related fields; strengthening the practical teaching links and cultivating students' ability to solve practical problems; deepening the teaching reform, improving the quality of teaching and enhancing the strength of education; optimising the allocation of resources, improving the conditions for running schools and accelerating the pace of academic construction. conditions for

running schools, and accelerate the pace of discipline construction. Adjust a series of scientific research policies of the university, actively develop scientific research and provide technical services, establish a characteristic and advantageous discipline system combining art, science and technology, and contribute to the local economic and social development. Meet the needs of the regional economic circle, while consolidating the school's original peak disciplinary advantages, on the basis of which to build a distinctive key disciplinary group; establish an innovation system of industry-education cooperation, cultivate high-level applied talents, and promote the transformation and application of scientific and technological achievements; strengthen the construction and management of faculty, and improve the level of teachers' teaching; optimise the structure of the curriculum, and improve the quality of talent cultivation. Applied colleges and universities should enhance the inheritance of key disciplines, lead the development of regional industries under the "inner-cycle" mode, support the development of regional advanced manufacturing industry, provide the driving force to serve the regional economic and social development, and initially push forward the comprehensive development of disciplines, majors and industries.

### **Discussions**

Educating and cultivating talents is always the original intention of universities, even the first heart. If Chinese higher education is to achieve the goal of "Two Hundred Years" and provide strong support for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, it must adhere to the principle of educating people first and giving priority to moral education; it must vigorously push forward quality education and focus on cultivating innovative and application-oriented high-quality talents. In today's world, only those universities that cultivate first-class talents can become world-class universities. Therefore, the cultivation of socialist core values for college students is not only the historical mission entrusted to us by the times, but also an important topic facing the construction of colleges and universities at present. At present, China is in the decisive stage of building a moderately prosperous society in all aspects, and there is an urgent need for a large number of excellent talents with both virtue and talent to devote themselves to the cause of national development and construction. On Teachers' Day on September 10, 2018, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out in his important speech at the Education Conference of the Chinese mainland that colleges and universities should pay attention to the cultivation of innovative, composite and applied talents, and in particular, highlight the cultivation of applied talents. This requires us to pay attention not only to the quality of talent cultivation, but also to how to promote the comprehensive quality of college students.

- Students in applied undergraduate colleges and universities should be trained to become high-level applied technical talents with core competitiveness through education-industry cooperation, and practical learning is one of the important ways. In college education, there exists a certain degree of disconnection between most laboratory teaching and theoretical learning. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the quality of practical teaching, enhance the level of laboratory management and practice base construction in practice-oriented colleges and universities, so that they can truly serve professional applied undergraduate colleges and universities and can effectively enhance students' creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship and employability; according to the needs of the industry and enterprise development, we should promote the systematic, integrative, collaborative and comprehensive reforms, and timely update the growth law of the growth of the applied talents in line with the The training programme is of great significance in improving the quality



of talent cultivation in applied undergraduate education.

- On the basis of analysing the current situation of school-enterprise cooperation in curriculum development under the philosophy of "service as the purpose", we put forward the idea of constructing the vocational ability cultivation system based on the orientation of work process; through research and analysis, we draw on the new concepts and ways of high-level applied talent training, and we realize the consistency between the talent cultivation norms and the direction of the development of industry and enterprises.
- At the same time, it is capable of adapting to the needs of the new industrial revolution and the new economic situation of the country's "internal cycle", providing a strong impetus for China's development; it can also play an important role in the global value chain and enhance China's international competitiveness; and it can promote the implementation of the strategy of coordinated development of the region and realise the complementarity of strengths and co-operation between regions. win-win situation. It also responds positively to the new era and the future through industrial upgrading and changes in market work demand.

### **Conclusion**

To sum up, colleges and universities must choose a development strategy that suits their own characteristics and implement a practical approach to character development. Since the outbreak of the new crown epidemic (here refers to the new crown pandemic since 2020), it has spread to all countries and regions around the world, overseas economies have suffered a heavy blow, the globalisation process has been greatly affected, and this impact also affects the field of higher education, especially the competition between developed and developing countries is becoming more and more intense. Against this backdrop, developed economies around the world, with the United States as a representative, have begun to reflect on and re-examine their education models and to reform their own education.

At the same time, China has also responded. Therefore, the CPC and the State have put forward an "inner-cycle" development strategy, which seeks to be stable and pragmatic, and seeks to be refined and specialised. In this context, the socialist economic development and the high-end manufacturing field are in urgent need of application-oriented professionals. Under the development theme of "inner cycle", college students, as the main force for the future construction and development of the country, have become one of the key topics of concern for their training mode. Through the development history of some domestic undergraduate colleges and universities, this paper finds that the horizontal applied undergraduate colleges and universities have gradually become one of the major strategies for the development of national higher education, and its top priority can be seen from the number of applied undergraduate colleges and universities that have been increasing year by year. Under the new economic situation of "internal circulation" of the country, the Ministry of Education has formulated corresponding policies to encourage and support the development of applied colleges and universities. In view of the fact that local institutions in China still pay insufficient attention to undergraduate education, the positioning of talent cultivation is not clear, the goal of talent cultivation is ambiguous, and the professional settings are out of line with the needs of the "inner-cycle" economy, which not only restricts the development of the school itself, but also delays the innovative development of higher education in China. In order to solve this problem, this paper takes the integration mode of education and industry as the starting point, and puts forward the four strategic initiatives of establishing moral character, integrating education and industry, adapting to the society and cultivating talents. Among them, "cultivating morality and education first" is the fundamental

task of talent cultivation; "integration of education and industry, cooperation between government and schools, cooperation between schools and enterprises, and alternation of work and study" is the way to cultivate high-quality applied undergraduates; and in the reform of the curriculum, we should pay attention to the relevance of the curriculum content to the occupation, the "relevance of the curriculum to the society", and the "relevance of the curriculum to the society". In curriculum reform, we should pay attention to the relevance of the curriculum content to the occupation, which is the development demand under the background of "inner cycle". Colleges and universities should clearly define their own positioning, and put "nurturing talents for the Communist Party of China and the country" in the first place, which is a must for cultivating talents.

For this reason, the construction of China's applied colleges and universities should be based on the above strategic initiatives, and build this strategic system of the first task and intuitive results, an important guarantee is that we must actively explore the new situation of applied undergraduate colleges and universities talent cultivation mode innovation strategy. Only in this way can we achieve the goal of training talents in applied undergraduate colleges and universities, so that we can really do for the Communist Party of China and the country to deliver high-quality skilled specialists with a bachelor's degree. Chinese colleges and universities must follow the trend of the times, grasp the opportunity, take the initiative to adapt to the changes in economic and social development, adhere to the innovation-driven, deepen the teaching reform, strengthen the connotation of the construction, improve the quality of teaching, cultivate innovative talents, improve the overall competitiveness, promote the socialist modernisation cause of vigorous development, and achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. As the saying goes, "the road is long and the journey is far, I will go up and down to seek", we still have a lot of way to go in the reform of practice-oriented higher education.

### **Acknowledgements**

This research was not financially supported

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