Q: Your Life Architect curriculum has gained immense popularity and has been adopted by numerous international schools and organizations. What inspired you to create this program, and how do you think it addresses the gaps in traditional education systems?

A: When I was in highschool, I felt lost about what major I should choose in college, also "career" sounds like a blurry concept to me. I chose the linguistic and English translation major only because it sounds sophisticated and cool. I have no idea what type of job I would do after graduation and what is the income range. I made an important choice based on a random and seemingly plausible idea. However, in college, after I tried my first translation internship, I realized the work is not for me. I felt lost again. At that time I was a part time SAT teacher in a language center, and I enjoyed working with students, so I decided to apply to an education program in graduate school. During my first master degree, I got the chance to work with different education technology companies, and I found my passion in designing curriculum on different technology platforms and doing AI in learning design research. Because of the experience I applied for a second master degree in education technology and learning design. It took me three degrees to find a career that combined all my passion, strength and met all my expectations, a career that brought me joy and happiness. Three degrees takes 8 years and the amount of tuition that I don't want to think about. I discovered that I'm not alone in this long, difficult career search journey. We did a questionnaire with 20k participants online, 76% participants are not happy with the major they choose. 85% of people would choose a different major if they have the chance. Also over 79.5% of people wish they could know more and prepare better for their college application. That's why I wanted to design a curriculum that can step by step guide students for their college application, major exploration and career development. I hope to help more students in high school and college to find their passion in academic and career paths.

Q: You have been a key opinion leader in AI education and have contributed significantly to transforming the education landscape. Can you share some of the biggest challenges you faced during your journey and how you overcame them?

A: I started to to do AI in learning related research in 2016, after reading the 50 countries Artificial intelligence national strategy. I see a lot of ambitious plans, but I didn't see the plan about how to support teachers and schools in understanding AI powered tools. And how to regulate the application of these tools. And many teachers and educational institutions reached out to discuss the how much should AI tools and other education technologies like VR, AR be involved in the classroom teaching. And where can they find useful information. I started to collected the AI tools in the market that open to educators and students and analyzed the proms and cons to share the information in free webinars. I also designed a video lesson series to help school teacher to quickly understand the current application of AI powered tools in teaching and learning. Also the importance to realize the possible negative impact of the technology. I also gathered a group of Edtech thought leaders including college professors, tech company leaders and education administrators that are trying to build an online community to share the information. We hosted free monthly webinars to help different school communities. What we did is nothing close to solve the issue but we initiated the project with many schools to raise the awareness.

Q: Your book, "30 Minutes to Master TOEFL Reading: Contextual Vocabulary Memorization," has been a best-seller in the English teaching materials category. What led you to write this book, and how do you think it has impacted the way students approach learning English?

A: I have taken the TOEFL test 11 times, with some attempts aimed at using the scores for graduate school applications and others for second language teaching and learning research. As an international student, I understand the importance of demonstrating language proficiency through a standardized test when applying to schools in the U.S. However, I have noticed that most test preparation materials primarily focus on test-taking techniques rather than enhancing language skills.

This discrepancy has led to a common challenge among students: achieving high scores on language proficiency tests but struggling to keep up with the demands of English-language classes. One of the key reasons for this struggle is the lack of contextual comprehension of vocabulary. To address this issue, I am motivated to write a vocabulary book that places greater emphasis on the contextual use of language in the learning process.

By emphasizing context in vocabulary acquisition, my aim is to bridge the gap between test preparation and practical language skills. This book will provide learners with the tools to not only excel in language proficiency tests but also thrive in real-life English learning environments. I believe that a deeper understanding of vocabulary within its context will greatly enhance students' language acquisition and overall language proficiency.

Through this project, I hope to contribute to the improvement of language education and empower students to become confident and competent English language learners.

Q: As a panel judge and director of the instructional design project at the EDspark Competition, how do you use your experience to shape the future of education and inspire a new generation of innovators?

A: As a co-initiator of the event, I had the privilege of serving as one of the esteemed panel judges and played a crucial role in spearheading the entire event, including designing the program and overseeing the event process. Drawing upon my extensive experience and forward-thinking vision for progressive education, I established a strong foundation for an exciting and dynamic competition.

Having worked in instructional design and provided guidance to numerous Edtech companies for over 8 years, I believe that fostering an entrepreneurial mindset can empower young individuals in their personal leadership development. I understand that incorporating entrepreneurship in both K-12 and higher education settings can ignite sparks of innovation. Importantly, entrepreneurship goes beyond generating great ideas; it involves transforming those ideas into reality.

With this in mind, I designed the EdSpark competition program to not only encourage creativity but also assist contestants in realizing their ideas. We aimed to connect participants with prestigious university incubators and expert coaches, ensuring ongoing access to resources and guidance even after the competition concludes.

The EdSpark competition showcased a multitude of innovative ideas, leaving me truly inspired by the wealth of creativity and ingenuity on display. It serves as a testament to the immense power of young minds and their remarkable capacity to shape the future of education.

Q:With over a million followers on Weibo, you have a significant influence on the education sector. How do you use this platform to further your mission and reach a broader audience?

A: As an educator and content creator, I have been using the Weibo platform to further my mission and reach a broader audience in the education sector. With over a million followers, I have the opportunity to share valuable learning materials and resources to support individuals in their educational journey.

I initially started sharing content online in 2011, focusing on areas such as career coaching, college applications, and language learning. At that time, there were limited free resources available online, and the concept of being a "digital content creator" was still emerging. Through text, pictures, and later mini video courses, I began sharing educational content and engaging with my audience.

For the past 10 years, I have been teaching a public course on the Weibo Education platform every Saturday. These classes have attracted a large number of participants, with up to 200,000 individuals joining each session. This consistent engagement has allowed me to connect with a wide range of learners and provide them with valuable insights and knowledge.

The impact of my work on the Weibo platform has been recognized, as I have been featured as one of the top 10 educators on the platform for five consecutive years. This achievement is significant considering the competition from over 50,000 other professional education accounts on the platform. Additionally, the platform appointed me as a study abroad ambassador, allowing me to share my experiences and insights on studying and working in New York City. This role has provided thousands of students with a reference and guidance as they consider pursuing their education in the United States.

Through my presence on Weibo, I strive to make a positive impact on education by providing accessible and valuable content, engaging with my audience, and sharing my knowledge and experiences. It is my aim to empower individuals and support them in their educational pursuits, helping them achieve their goals and aspirations.

Q: You have worked with tech giants and Fortune 500 companies like Google, Amazon, PwC, Bloomberg, and Facebook, designing courses and providing training for their employees. How do you approach creating tailored educational content for these organizations, and what do you think sets your courses apart?

A: One unique perspective of my course is that the design combined content learning engagement, integration of technology, and the understanding of the global workforce within

multicultural backgrounds. Because of my career path in K-12, higher education, and corporate setting in different countries, as well as my background in cross-cultural communication, learning design, and education technology, my approach and design thinking in course creation fit corporates that have global teams and a large number of employees very well.

Also my course have the following features:

Customization: I prioritize customization by understanding the unique needs and context of the organization. This allows me to create content that directly addresses their challenges and aligns with their goals.

Learner-Centric Approach: I design courses with the learner in mind, considering their backgrounds, preferences, and learning styles. The content is presented in a clear and engaging manner, fostering active learning and promoting retention.

Practical Application: I emphasize the practical application of knowledge and skills. I strive to provide real-world examples, case studies, and interactive activities that enable learners to apply what they have learned in meaningful ways.

Interactive and Engaging Elements: I incorporate various interactive elements such as quizzes, discussions, and hands-on exercises to promote active participation and enhance learner engagement.

Continuous Improvement: I value feedback and continuously seek to improve the courses I create. I stay updated with the latest research and best practices in education and leverage that knowledge to enhance the effectiveness and relevance of the content.

Q: As an advisor to international internet startup companies on incorporating VR and AI technologies into their product offerings, can you share your thoughts on the future of AI in education and how you envision it shaping the industry?

A:I have had the opportunity to design leadership and language learning curriculums based on integration of VR (Virtual Reality) and AI (Artificial Intelligence) technologies into various product offerings. When it comes to the future of AI in education, I believe it holds tremendous potential to transform the industry and revolutionize the way we teach and learn.

AI has the ability to personalize and enhance the learning experience for students. With its data-driven insights and adaptive capabilities, AI can analyze individual learning patterns, identify areas of improvement, and tailor educational content to meet the unique needs of each student. This personalized approach can lead to more efficient and effective learning outcomes, as it allows students to progress at their own pace and focus on areas where they require additional support.

Furthermore, AI can provide intelligent tutoring systems that offer real-time feedback, guidance, and assessment. Through natural language processing and machine learning

algorithms, AI-powered virtual tutors can engage students in interactive and dynamic conversations, helping them grasp complex concepts and providing immediate clarification when needed. This individualized support can significantly improve student engagement and comprehension.

In addition, the integration of AI and VR technologies can create immersive and interactive learning experiences. Virtual reality can transport students to virtual environments that simulate real-world scenarios, enabling them to explore and interact with concepts in a more engaging and hands-on manner. AI algorithms can enhance these experiences by adapting the virtual environment based on students' actions and responses, creating a dynamic and personalized learning environment.

Moreover, AI can streamline administrative tasks for educators, such as grading assessments, organizing course materials, and managing student data. This automation of routine tasks allows educators to dedicate more time to student-centered activities, fostering deeper student-teacher interactions and supporting individualized instruction.

However, it's important to note that the successful integration of AI in education requires careful consideration of ethical and privacy concerns. Striking the right balance between technology and human interaction is crucial to ensure that AI is used as a supportive tool rather than a replacement for educators.

Q: What advice do you have for aspiring educators, speakers, and thought leaders looking to make a difference in the world of education?

A: Find your unique voice and message: Identify your strengths, values, and unique perspectives. What is the distinct contribution you can offer to the education community? Develop your own voice and thought leadership by sharing your insights, experiences, and expertise through various platforms such as blogging, speaking engagements, or publishing articles.

Embrace innovation and leverage technology: Explore innovative approaches, methodologies, and technologies that can enhance teaching and learning. Embrace digital tools, online platforms, and educational technologies to expand the reach and impact of your work.

Foster collaboration and community engagement: Education is a collaborative field, so seek opportunities to collaborate with other educators, schools, organizations, and communities. Engage with stakeholders, involve parents and students, and foster partnerships that can collectively drive positive change in education.

Be an advocate for equity and inclusivity: Champion the cause of equity and inclusivity in education. Advocate for equal access to quality education for all learners, regardless of their backgrounds, abilities, or circumstances. Raise awareness about educational disparities and work towards creating a more inclusive and equitable educational system.

Be adaptable and open to learning: Education is a dynamic field, and new challenges and opportunities will arise. Be adaptable and open to learning from both successes and failures. Embrace change, be willing to take risks, and continuously refine your approach based on feedback and reflection.

Inspire and empower others: Use your platform and influence to inspire and empower educators, students, and the broader education community. Share success stories, motivate others to pursue their passions, and provide support and guidance to those seeking to make a difference.

Q: Looking towards the future of education, what changes or innovations do you think people will see in the field, and how do you plan to contribute to those advancements in your own work?

A: Personalized and adaptive learning: Education will increasingly move towards personalized learning experiences tailored to individual students' needs and preferences. I plan to contribute by leveraging my expertise in instructional design and technology to develop adaptive learning systems and tools that can dynamically adjust content and support based on each learner's progress and learning style.

Integration of emerging technologies: Emerging technologies such as augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), artificial intelligence (AI), and blockchain have the potential to transform education. I aim to stay at the forefront of these technological advancements and explore how they can be effectively integrated into educational practices. Through collaborations with technology experts and educators, I plan to develop innovative solutions that enhance engagement, experiential learning, and knowledge acquisition.

Blended and online learning: The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the adoption of online and blended learning models. As these models continue to evolve, I intend to contribute by designing effective online courses and learning platforms that foster interaction, collaboration, and active engagement. I will leverage data analytics and AI to inform instructional decisions and enhance the online learning experience.

Research and evidence-based practices: Evidence-based practices backed by research are crucial for improving educational outcomes. I will contribute by conducting and promoting research in the field of education, particularly in areas such as educational technology, personalized learning, and instructional design. I aim to bridge the gap between research and practice by translating research findings into practical strategies and tools that can be implemented in educational settings.