

# Research on the Realization Path of University Spirit - Taking the Spirit of CUG of "Hard Work and Plain Living, Seeking Truth and Being Pragmatic" as an Example

Lixue Guo

*Guangzhou Institute of Technology, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China*

**Abstract:** University spirit is the soul of a university, the summary of the dedication of all teachers and students to the work of the school, and the fine tradition formed in the process of running the school. "Hard Work and Plain Living, Seeking Truth and Being Pragmatic" is the core of the university spirit of China University of Geosciences (CUG). Since the establishment of the university, all teachers and students have been practicing the spirit of CUG with their own actions. However, with the continuous improvement of people's living standards, some students think that the requirement of hard work and plain living is out of date, and the trend of waste and extravagance has emerged. This paper analyzes the phenomenon of the lack of the spirit of hard work among college students, and puts forward the principles that should be adhered to in inheriting the spirit of CUG as well as the methods and paths for inheriting this spirit.

**Keywords:** University Spirit; CUG; Realization Path

CUG is a first-class and distinctive institution of higher learning with the historical mission of cultivating talents with solid professional knowledge and noble moral character. Since its establishment, our university has been continuously cultivating students' scientific research spirit of fearing no difficulties and striving for the peak, as well as the patriotic spirit of fighting for every inch of land, and gradually constructing the culture of CUG dominated by hard work and plain living, seeking truth and being pragmatic. At present, in the process of college students' education work, there is a common phenomenon that emphasizes the "hard requirements" such as college students' professional learning and

social work, while ignoring the "soft indicators" such as whether the world outlook, outlook on life and values are correctly established and whether college students possess political accomplishment<sup>[1]</sup>. At the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, it was clearly proposed that "taking cultivating people with virtue as the fundamental mission of education". This not only indicates the task of higher education, but also puts forward the general requirements of the Party and the country for talent cultivation. Hard work and plain living are the needs of the growth process of talents. Seeking truth and being pragmatic means seeking the truth of education and cultivating talents with both moral integrity and professional ability and learning from others' strong points<sup>[2]</sup>. Therefore, the main purpose of this research is to take the opportunity of promoting the spirit of CUG to explore the paths to achieve the educational goal of cultivating people with virtue in colleges and universities.

## 1. Development and Connotation of the Spirit of CUG

University spirit is the concepts, ideas and consciousness formed in the course of school construction. University spirit shows its educational philosophy, educational beliefs, highest pursuits and bottom lines, and is the cultural essence that guides the inheritance of generations of university teachers and students. It is inherited and grows in school construction and teaching activities, and is materialized and strengthened through school facilities construction, statues and typical figures<sup>[3]</sup>. Alumni Wen Jiabao summarized the educational thought of his alma mater as "Hard Work and Plain Living, Seeking Truth and Being Pragmatic"<sup>[4]</sup>.

In the early days of the school's establishment, although the school had excellent teaching staff,

the conditions for running the school were difficult, the school site was simple, and resources were scarce. It took one year to build more than 50,000 square meters of school buildings. Teachers and students overcame difficulties and ushered in the golden stage of rapid development of the school, making remarkable achievements for the industrialization construction of the motherland, fully reflecting the lofty ideals and beliefs and tenacious will quality of the people of CUG. In the 1960s and 1970s, affected by the situation, the school moved south from Beijing and began the difficult "guerrilla-style" teaching. With the admiration and sincerity for the cause of higher education, it was rebuilt in Wuhan after several relocations. In the 1980s and 1990s, affected by the dual impacts of the structural adjustment of the geological industry and the change of the management system and mechanism of geological colleges, it faced the crisis of "marginalization". Graduates of geological majors had difficulties in finding jobs, resulting in insufficient student sources of the school. The Party Committee of the school led all teachers and students to start businesses through arduous efforts. It was precisely because of this spirit of hard work that CUG caught up with the historical opportunity of the "211 Project" construction and the expansion of college enrollments, and the school ushered in a prosperous development situation, writing the legend of the "Hard Work and Plain Living, Seeking Truth and Being Pragmatic" spirit of CUG<sup>[5]</sup>.

## **2. Analysis of the Current Situation of the Lack of the Spirit of Hard Work among College Students**

According to the interviews on the awareness of the spirit of hard work among college students in CUG(Wuhan), more than 90% of the students believe that although people's living standards have been continuously improving in the new era, the spirit of hard work is still necessary, and as a person of CUG whose university spirit is the spirit of hard work, one should show the spirit of hard work in daily learning and life. However, a small number of students think that hard work means asking people to return to the difficult past and live a life of being inadequately clothed and underfed. The past spirit has no meaning. The analysis of some situations where there is a

lack of accurate understanding of hard work mainly includes the following three aspects:

### **2.1 The Trend of Waste in Life**

In the interviews with college students in CUG(Wuhan), the lack of the spirit of hard work is mainly manifested in waste phenomena. Among them, there are a large number of leftovers in the canteen; there is the phenomenon of dripping faucets in the dormitory water use; forgetting to turn off the air conditioner when leaving the classroom; and some students do not know how to recycle waste, which also causes a waste of some resources. College students, as the most dynamic group in the process of social construction, should see the importance of resource conservation and practice the fine style of hard work from daily trifles.

### **2.2 The Trend of Comparison among Students**

In the interview survey, 3% of the students are keen on brand-name clothes, electronic products, etc. The trend of comparison among students is mainly manifested in comparing dressing up with each other; taking brand-name clothes and the latest electronic products as honors. Educators should pay attention to these problems. When college students are keen on comparing with each other, extreme behaviors are likely to occur, such as online loans. The outlook on human nature and values will also deviate accordingly. Strengthening the education of the thought of hard work is an important method and path to correct the outlook on life and values of college students.

### **2.3 The Trend of Decadence in the Learning Process**

From the data in the interview survey, we can see that 17% of the students have had the phenomena of being late for class, leaving early, skipping classes, sleeping in class, and playing with mobile phones. The attitude in the learning process is not correct, and the learning atmosphere is decadent. The emergence of this decadent trend in the learning process has greatly reduced the learning enthusiasm of some students, thereby causing the bad atmosphere of ease and enjoyment and lack of enterprising spirit to spread continuously in the campus. To cultivate a good learning atmosphere and school spirit, it is urgent to strengthen the

cultivation of the spirit of hard work among college students.

### **3. Paths for Cultivating the Spirit of CUG among College Students**

#### **3.1 Principles that Need to be Adhered to in the Inheritance of the Spirit of CUG**

##### **3.1.1 Combination of Popularization and Improvement**

Popularization means that the main body of the inheritance of the spirit of CUG is all the people of CUG in the school. All teachers and students in the school should clearly realize that everyone is responsible for inheriting the spirit of CUG, and it is everyone's responsibility and obligation. The idea that inheriting and practicing the spirit of CUG is only the responsibility of a small number of leaders should be firmly abandoned. Each person of CUG represents the appearance of CUG.

When emphasizing the breadth of the inheritance of the spirit of CUG, attention should also be paid to timely improvement. Update in real time the people and events that reflect the spirit of CUG, and continuously enrich the spirit of CUG with vivid content. Meanwhile, in the process of inheriting the spirit of CUG, more stringent requirements should be put forward for Party members and cadres, making them exemplary in inheriting the spirit of CUG.

##### **3.1.2 Combination of Theory and Practice**

In terms of the way of cultivating the spirit of CUG, the principle of combining theoreticality and practicality should be adhered to. Scientific theories have important guiding significance for people's practice. The generalization of the spirit of CUG, the refinement of its connotation, and the excavation of its content can effectively promote the inheritance of the geological spirit. Practice is the only standard for testing the truth. The inheritance of spirit cannot only be in theoretical research. The way to implement the spirit of CUG in practice; it must be through practical innovation and embodying the spirit of CUG with actions. Moreover, only practice can test the effect of inheritance. Therefore, in actual learning and work, activities of vigorously promoting and practicing the spirit of CUG should be carried out. Form the main melody of practicing and promoting the spirit of CUG in the school.

##### **3.1.3 Combination of History and Reality**

When interpreting the spirit of CUG, it should be recognized that the spirit of CUG is the summary of the excellent spiritual qualities formed by teachers and students in long-term work and has timeliness. With the development of the school, the content and external manifestations of the spirit of CUG are also developing. Therefore, in the process of inheriting the spirit of CUG, it is necessary to view the spirit of CUG with a historical perspective.

Although the spirit of CUG is a generalization and summary of the school's history, it has essentiality and fundamentality. Therefore, although the times are developing and changing, the essence has not changed, and the core generalization of the spirit of CUG will not be out of date. The invariability of the essence and the changes in the forms, ways and paths of manifestation are dialectically unified.

#### **3.2 Ways and Methods of Inheriting the Spirit of CUG**

##### **3.2.1 Giving Full Play to the Role of Typical Examples in the Inheritance of the Spirit of CUG**

To ensure the effective inheritance of the spirit of CUG, Party members and cadres are the first, and their typical roles should be fully played; at the same time, historical figures and important events that embody the spirit of CUG should be deeply explored. These typical examples are the carriers of inheriting the spirit of CUG.

The behavior of Party members and cadres directly affects the judgment of the masses on policies. Therefore, when vigorously promoting the spirit of CUG, Party members and cadres should be firmly grasped and their exemplary and vanguard leading and demonstrating roles as Party members should be fully played.

To promote the spirit of CUG, the key is to achieve practical results. To achieve the purpose of effective inheritance, not only do Party members and cadres need to be models, but also the specific content should be enriched. In the process of promoting the spirit of CUG, two types of typical examples should be timely summarized. One is typical figures; the other is typical events. The summary of these two types can be carried out from two dimensions. The first is historical typical examples. Summarize and study the establishment, development process, historical figures of CUG in ancient

times, and the spiritual qualities they showed in the process of running the school. The second is real-time typical examples. Among real-time typical figures, various figure events and outstanding contributions should be timely summarized, such as volunteers during the epidemic period, rescue workers in flood fighting and disaster relief, and mountaineers who measure the "height" of Mount Everest under extreme conditions. Summarizing and publicizing these advanced deeds that embody the spirit of CUG can directly promote the spirit of CUG, so that teachers and students are subtly influenced.

### 3.2.2 Giving Full Play to the Guiding Role of Campus Networks in the Inheritance of the Spirit of CUG

Nowadays, the popularization and development of the network have affected all aspects of people's lives, and the proportion of knowledge that students obtain from the network is quite large. The outlook on life, values and understanding of society of students are deeply affected by social media. The school can make use of the campus network to provide various services for the learning and living of college students, and also educate and guide them. The following can mainly be done:

One is to establish a theme website of CUG culture, mainly promoting the history of CUG. Promote the deeds of excellent alumni and major historical events, so that people can quickly understand the development process of CUG, and form an atmosphere of hard work and plain living, seeking truth and being pragmatic.

Two is to set up learning forums and public welfare lectures, using typical examples and figures to promote and guide the spirit of CUG. Provide a special forum for the communication and exchange between students. Combine pictures, music, short videos and other forms, integrating ideology, knowledge and interest, and organically combine the dissemination of the spirit of CUG with meeting the rich and colorful spiritual and cultural needs of students, so that college students can experience the spirit of CUG in all aspects.

### 3.2.3 Giving Full Play to the Nurturing Role of Campus Culture in the Inheritance of the Geological Spirit

Promoting the spirit of CUG itself is not the purpose. The purpose is to make the spirit of

CUG become the value criterion inside people and the behavior standard outside people through promoting it. Theme education activities can be carried out on the welcome party for new students, school anniversaries and other major anniversaries, so that new students can establish a preliminary understanding of the spirit of CUG when they enter the university early. This can not only make students identify with the spirit of CUG psychologically, but also through education and nurturing, make new students worship historical figures and deeds, and then take the spirit of CUG as their belief. For example, carrying out knowledge contests about CUG, singing contests, rock climbing contests, orienteering contests, etc., and posting geological spirit slogans during the activities. Let students truly experience the power of the spirit of CUG from the bottom of their hearts through the combination of cognition and action in the process of understanding and knowing the spirit of CUG, so as to realize the internalization of the spirit of CUG.

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