By embracing the new collaborations that technological institutions provide, humanists have the opportunity to expand our reach to fields—and to student populations—that we might have otherwise missed. Cultivating humanistic approaches in technological students is, after all, another form of building.

Paul Jaussen
Lawrence Technological University

Reply:

I thank Paul Jaussen for bringing to our attention the exciting initiatives at LTU and other polytechnic and technological colleges and universities. These institutions, dedicated to tangible skills and measurable outcomes, serve a student population very different from the one most humanities scholars serve and provide a window on the future of the profession all the more suggestive for being unfamiliar. What kind of audience can we aspire to, and what kind of audience can we realistically expect? Are students at LTU within our reach? And if the answer is "no" for many of us, are we reconciled to that verdict, or is there a sense that things could be otherwise? The "hybrid humanities" initiatives at LTU suggest that a discipline compelled by necessity to engage other fields of knowledge might yield forms of access to a broader spectrum of students. Building these hybrid forms could be one of the most urgent tasks ahead.

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