

Notes and Trends

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Universities turn used Gloves into Eco-responsible Durable Goods

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Purdue University have both joined the RightCycle program offered by Kimberly-Clark Professional to recycle lab gloves and garments into products such as shelving, flowerpots, and lawn and garden furniture. In the last 5 years, the program has diverted 350 metric tons of waste from landfills.

University Business, November 21, 2016, <https://www.universitybusiness.com/news/universities-turn-used-gloves-eco-responsible-durable-goods>

MCU – Finish in Four

At Marymount California University, incoming freshmen can purchase a MINI Cooper at fleet price with a financing plan for five years. If they graduate in four years, the university will make the fifth year's payment up to \$5,000. The university sees this offer as both a recruitment and retention program.

MCU and Irvine Mini Announce My Marymount Mini Program, August 5, 2016, <http://www.marymountcalifornia.edu/2016/08/05/marymount-launches-marymount-mini-program/>

Chain of Indian Colleges Seeks to Gain Foothold in the US

Amity University, a system of private colleges based in New Delhi with campuses in India, England, China, South Africa and five other countries, is looking to expand into the United States. They have purchased a branch of St. John's University (NY) and are looking to buy the New England Institute of Art and the Art Institute of New York City. The university hopes these campuses "will attract students from abroad who want to gain the prestige that comes with studying the United States." However, these purchases will face challenges in obtaining accreditation and approval by the U.S. Department of Education.

U.S. News, October 10, 2016, <http://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2016-10-10/chain-of-indian-colleges-seeks-to-gain-foothold-in-the-us>

15 Years after 9/11, Higher Ed Fills Unique Void in Homeland Security

More than \$7.6 million has been spent by the federal government on defense and homeland security research and development since 9/11. Universities have planned key roles in this research and development. Projects have included studying active shooters in schools to provide training for first responders and offering training in municipal emergency preparedness for rural communities.

EducationDive, September 9, 2016, <http://www.educationdive.com/news/15-years-after-911-higher-ed-fills-unique-void-in-homeland-security/425445/>

The Freewheelin' Library

The Stark County District Library (Canton, Ohio) has a program, BikeSmart, which lends bikes to library card holders. A collaboration between the library, the Canton Parks and Recreation, and the Stark County Park District and administered by the company Zagster, the program allows card holders to

borrow bikes for a short time without cost to the borrower. Funding comes from the library's collections budget, the same funds used to purchase books, ebooks, and database vendors.

American Libraries, September 8, 2016, <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/bikesmart-freewheelin-library/>

How For-Profit Colleges Could Spark the Next Financial Crisis

Although a smaller part of the credit marketing than housing, student lending may be the spark for the next financial crisis according to some experts. Accounting for \$1.2 trillion in borrowing, student lending is used to finance attendance at both for-profit and not-for-profits institutions. However, even though for-profits make up only 12% of enrollments in higher education, the for-profit sector accounts for 25% of the students in default.

Time, September 8, 2016, <http://time.com/4483726/for-profit-colleges-itt-tech/>

Arizona man Arrested for Hacking Email Accounts at Universities

A 29-year old Phoenix resident, Jonathan Powell, was arrested for hacking into over 1,000 email accounts at two universities and attempting to hack into systems at 75 other institutions. He successfully changed the passwords for 1,050 accounts. Using these changes passwords, he compromised social media accounts that were linked to these university email accounts, obtaining users' confidential information.

Reuters, November 2, 2016, <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-cyber-universities-idUSKBN12X2MG>

Pittsburgh's AI Traffic Signals will make Driving less Boring

Surtrac, a startup company founded by Carnegie Mellon University professor Stephen Smith, provides traffic signals that use artificial intelligence to adapt the signals to changing traffic conditions. Initial tests have shown that travel time is reduced by 25% and time spent idling is reduced by 40%.

IEEE Spectrum, October 17, 2016, <http://spectrum.ieee.org/cars-that-think/robotics/artificial-intelligence/pittsburgh-smart-traffic-signals-will-make-driving-less-boring>

Udacity Launches Blitz, Helping its Grads win Jobs

Blitz, a job placement service from Udacity, the online-education company, matches their recent graduates with corporate clients' software projects. Graduates are paired up with companies and work as little as two weeks or as long as six months with the corporations. Serving as project manager for these contracts, Udacity receives a fee of about 10-20% of the value of these contracts. Blitz is seen as a way for both the employee and the employer to have a short-time trial before making a full-time hiring decision.

Forbes, November 17, 2016, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/georgeanders/2016/11/17/udacity-launches-blitz-helping-its-grads-to-win-jobs/#12bacb2058e7>

Whose Interests do College Diversity Officers Serve?

Since a series of racial incidents have occurred on campuses over the past 18 months, 90 American colleges and universities have hired chief diversity officers. The author of this article contends that what is really needed is “more intensive teaching and mentoring,” rather than new layer of administrators.

The Atlantic, September 8, 2016, <http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/09/americas-college-diversity-officers/499022/>