Notes and Trends

Mary S. Bonhomme

Crowdfunding follows social media, MOOCs as higher ed trend

The author defines crowdsourcing as "the collective effort of individuals who network and pool their money, usually via the internet, to support efforts initiated by other people or organizations." Higher education institutions are using crowdfunding to reach out to millenials who are not responding to fund raising efforts using the traditional fund raising approaches. Some of the platforms are AlumniFunder http://www.alumnifunder.com/, PIGLT http://www.piglt.com/, GiveCorps Prohttp://givecorps.pro/ . If you have not seen what these platforms offer, you really need to spend some time exploring this development.

University Business, July, 2013, http://www.universitybusiness.com/article/crowdfunding-follows-social-media-moocs-higher-ed-trend

MOOCs go to K12: Higher ed trend expands to high schools

There has been much discussion about the role of MOOCs (massive open online courses) and their role and impact in higher education. Now K12 schools are looking at how MOOCs can be used to supplement and enhance current curriculum within the K12 arena. Two examples are provided: using a MOOC to get high school credit for the course but no grade is awarded and using a MOOC to present a pre-college experience. In addition, some teachers are beginning to incorporate the MOOC material into their face-to-face classrooms.

District Administration Magazine, http://www.districtadministration.com/article/moocs-go-k12-higher-ed-trend-expands-high-schools

Matthew Weaver gets 1 Year in Prison for Rigging Cal State San Marcos Vote

For stealing identities and passwords of fellow students in order to win a student body election at Cal State San Marcos, Matthew Weaver was sentenced to one year in prison. He pleaded guilty to "wire fraud, unauthorized access of a computer, and identity theft." By using devices that recorded a computer user's keystrokes, he obtained passwords for 745 users.

Huffington Post, July 17, 2013 http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/16/matthew-weaver-prison-cal-state-san-marcos_n_3604065.html

Technologies that are Changing and will Change the World

This is a fascinating article that reports on a presentation given by Howie DiBlasi at the ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) conference. On the list is analytical underwear that evaluates and records electrical activity produced by the skeletal muscles. Sounds strange but researchers suggest that collection of this data could be important for medical professionals. A favorite potential product is the mind-reading shopping cart which takes a grocery list via text message, scans

the items and prices as purchases are placed in the cart, and warns the shopper if the item(s) placed in the cart violates dietary restrictions or does not appear on the grocery list. Ten other technologies are also listed.

eSchool News, June 25, 2013, http://www.eschoolnews.com/2013/06/25/technologies-that-are-changing-and-will-change-the-world/

Predicting Obesity at Birth

Researchers in Finland have developed a free, online calculator that determines a baby's likelihood of becoming obese. Factors include genetic and nongenetic (e.g. the number of people living in the household, etc.). If it can be determined which factors are the best predictors of obesity and these can be identified early on, preventative measures, e.g. parent education, nutritional guides, etc., can be designed and deployed. The calculator is available at http://files-good.ibl.fr/childhood-obesity/

The Futurist, vol. 47, #2, pg. 12

Maids of Hounours: Domestic study – 1-year course will hone their housekeeping skills

Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) in India has developed a one-year diploma that provides training in the following areas: taking care of children; operating modern household appliances and devices; communication skills; personality development; basic math; housekeeping; general knowledge; and current affairs. The state labor department is funding almost 85% of the cost of the program for individuals. The Mumbai Workers' Front, an organization of domestic workers, supports the idea of the program. A spokesperson said, "Education is the only tool through which they (domestic workers) can be aware of their rights and understand government schemes available for them…."

DNA: Daily News and Analysis (Mumbai), June 27, 2013

Neotrope Announces Lineup of Worthy Causes Earning 2013 Non-profit PR Grants

Neotrope, based in California, announced five non-profit organizations who have received grants to help develop the public relations efforts. Neotrope is an advertising, marketing and PR firm. The purpose of the grants is to "help raise awareness of the 501(c)3 non-profits to traditional media, to the public, as well as to potential 'halo' sponsors and donors. Recipients are: Catalysts Powering Educational Performance (CPEP); Center for Student Opportunity; DesignWise Medical; Food Finders, Inc.; and the National Inclusion Project.

Florida Newswire (Redondo Beach) June 28, 2013

University of Cincinnati Details Revolutionary – and For-Credit – Massive Open Online Course

University of Cincinnati (UC) has partnered with MOOC2Degree programs to offer a course, Innovation and Design Thinking, in the MOOC (massive open online course) model. The unique element of the offerings via MOOC2Degree is that, for those students who successfully complete the course and apply

to the UC college of business or college of engineering, the course can be applied to a degree in either college. More information on MOOC2Degree can be found at http://www.mooc2degree.com/

US Fed News Service, Washington, D.C., April 24, 2013

A University's Offer of Credit for a MOOC gets no Takers

This is an interesting contrast to the article mentioned above. In this article, the Global Campus of Colorado State University has had no takers on their offer to award credit for successfully completing a MOOC if the student paid the $89 for the proctored exam. Legislators in Florida and California have attempted to pass legislation requiring universities to recognize MOOCs for credit. Such developments continue to shape the conversation about MOOCs.

Chronicle of Higher Education, July 8, 2013, http://chronicle.com/article/A-Universitys-Offer-of-Credit/140131/

Firms Seek Grads who can Think Fast, Work in Teams

This article explores how employers are trying to identify potential employees who have more than just good grades. Employers are looking for soft skills: "work well in teams; write and speak with clarity; adapt quickly to changes in technology and business conditions; and interact with colleagues from different countries and cultures." Internships and co-op experiences are becoming increasingly important as part of the selection process. Some companies are using sponsoring competitions such as Code Jam as a way to find talent.

Associated Press http://bigstory.ap.org/article/firms-seek-grads-who-can-think-fast-work-teams, published June 24, 2013

The Biometrics Boom

Biometrics, defined as "the science of identifying individuals by their unique biological characteristics," is booming these days as a response to the age of terrorism. The global biometrics industry today has revenues of $10 billion. One technology that is the focus of much development work is the iris scan device. By scanning the iris of your eye, the device can identify people with 90-99% accuracy. Development of such technology has significant implications for privacy.

The Week, June 7, 2013, pg. 11

Conference explores campus e-learning: New Trends in Higher Education

Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, recently offered an e-learning conference called ESCAPE: Knowledge, Teaching, Technology. The conference aimed to bring faculty together to discuss and learn about the developments in online and blended learning, in information and communication tools (ICT), and how such developments are influencing higher education.

The Gazette, Montreal, Quebec, April 3, 2013, pg A7

Oklahoma Public School Graduation Rates show Upward Trend over Decade

Education Week published the results of the 2010 national graduation rates recently. Based on the 2010 data, the most recent year for which data is available, the national graduation rate "reached its highest level since 1973, mostly due to gains among Hispanic and black students." In Oklahoma, the rate rose from 73.6% in 2009 to 73.9% in 2010. This is the first year for students to be required to meet the Achieving Classroom Excellence (ACE) standards included as part of the state's ACE legislation.

McClatchy-Tribune Business News, June 6, 2013

Four scenarios for 2030

The National Intelligence Council, in their report Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds, identifies four scenarios that could occur by 2030. These scenarios are: "the stalled engine…; the fusion…; the genie out of the bottle…; and the non-state…" Which scenario will ultimately emerge is based on which of the following game changers has the biggest impact: economic power will shift eastwards and southwards; the global middle class will continue its rise; American's demographic window of opportunity is closing; hydraulic fracturing (fracking) makes the United States virtually energy independent; the threat of pandemic looms; and 3-D printing and robotics will revolutionize manufacturing.

The Futurist, v. 47, #2, pgs. 54-55

No-bid MOOCS

This article explores universities signing contracts with, and in some cases making outright payments (The University of Texas system) to, companies such as Udacity and Coursera without competitively bidding out these contracts. Some universities argued that their work with such companies was only a "taste of the MOOC software."

Inside Higher Ed, July 17, 2013, http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2013/07/17/moocs-spread-quickly-aided-no-bid-deals-public-universities

Role of Accreditation in Improving Quality in Higher Professional Management Education in India

India has passed a bill that makes accreditation from independent agencies mandatory within 3 years for higher education institutions. The legislation, entitled the National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Education Institutions, is raising concerns of whether the independent agencies can manage the anticipated onslaught of applications from management and other higher education institutions. This article explores the impact on the quality of education and on key stakeholders in the education system.

Srusti Management Review, v. 6, #1, pgs. 165-170

A Demographic Analysis of Graduate Programs in Higher Education Administration in the United States

A history of higher education as a field of study is presented in this article. The author focused on the demographics of these programs. Some of the findings reported are that 161 institutions offer some type of graduate degree in higher education and that there is a wide variety in the name of these programs. Another finding according to the author is that the programs are more oriented towards the "how-to's" rather than on established theoretical perspectives.