

Notes and Trends

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One-Quarter of Adults hold Educational Credentials other than an Academic Degree, Census Bureau Reports

As the headline indicates, credentials, other than academic degrees, are obtained by one in four U.S. adults. These credentials include professional certifications, licenses, and education certificates. Individuals working in the business//finance management, nursing, education, cosmetology and culinary arts are most likely to hold these credentials. Credential holders also earned more than those without the credential.

<http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/education/cb14-10.html>

Giving new Life to old Space

Financial, environmental, and sentimental forces can be drivers for universities and colleges to re-purpose buildings. This article showcased seven buildings at large, public universities to small, private universities that re-purposed buildings. Examples are dining halls turned into an academic complex and a fraternity house that became an internationally-themed residence halls.

University Business, v. 17, #1, pg. 28+

MOOCs: Breathing new Life into Academics

Professors at UC Irvine have created a MOOC that fuses popular culture (in this case, the AMC's series "The Walking Dead") with academic topics (in this case, concepts of society, science, and survival). The course hopes to attract people interested in this topic and who want to learn more. The course was presented using the Canvas by Instructure. The instructors see this course as a complement to the learning process, rather than a replacement for instructor-led classrooms.

<http://us.mediaplanet.com/online-education/a-new-breed-of-moocs>

CES 2013: 5 Dumbest Ideas

The Consumer Electronics Show (CES) is a showcase for the newest products available in the consumer electronics marketplace. This author who attended the event identified the five products he characterizes as the "dumbest ideas." In the list are the HapiFork, an electronic fork that tracks how many mouthfuls you've taken in any given meal but fails to identify what it is that you ate, and the iPotty, a training toilet to which parents attach an iPad but fails to demonstrate how one protects the iPad from a toddler's temper tantrum.

<http://www.informationweek.com/mobile/mobile-devices/ces-2013-5-dumbest-ideas/d/d-id/1108157?>

8 Ways to Deter and Detect Fraud

Staff at universities and colleges have defrauded their institutions by engaging in occupational fraud. Cases have included out-right theft to using institutional funds for personal purchases. This article identifies eight ways to deter and detect fraud. One of the ways listed is to identify and correct vulnerabilities. A very useful list in the article is the model policies for campus fraud prevention including links to these policies.

University Business, v. 17, #1, pg. 69+

Florida State U Gets Millions to Create STEM Workshops for Teacher Training

A STEM research center at Florida State University has been funded by the Florida Department of Education. This center, FCR-STEM (Florida Center for Research in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), will develop summer institutes for teachers to be known as FCR-STEMLearn. In addition, the center will develop a public website that will provide free curriculum and other digital materials to teachers. The center hopes that these materials and workshops will encourage teachers to work together rather than working alone which can limit their growth and development.

<http://campustechnology.com/articles/2014/01/06/florida-state-u-gets-millions-to-create-stem-workshops-for-teacher-training.aspx>

Professors in Class on Time? Check.

The University of North Carolina's response to a scandal of no-show classes, faculty, and students has resulted in assigning officials to make campus wide visits to classrooms to insure that students are taking tests, professors are lecturing, and classes are making presentations. If the observations indicated that classes weren't meeting as scheduled, these observations were reported to a department head. Such observations and reporting, although unheard of on most campuses, are the results of the "egregious case of academic fraud ever committed at the university."

Chronicle of Higher Education, v. 60, #17, pg. 35+

Internet Scammers Change Some BU Direct Deposit Accounts

Boston University reported that scammers obtained the direct deposit routing information for the paychecks of 10 of their employees in December. The scammers, located in the United States and in Africa, then used this information to route the employees' paychecks elsewhere. The attack was discovered when employees reported that they had not received their paychecks in their accounts via direct deposit. All employees were encouraged to confirm important financial transactions as "a matter of routine." The university disabled the ESS (employee self-service) temporarily and is requiring confirmation from any employee who made changes in their direct deposit information during the period when the scam was active.

<http://www.bu.edu/today/2014/internet-scammers-change-some-bu-direct-deposit-accounts/>

Digital Trends to Shape 2014

This article examines the developments in the digital field that will impact higher education in 2014. Among these developments are: a world of required fun, emotions, engagement and impact; a world of “now”; and an integrated, interconnected world. Future trends include Google Glass and 3D printing. The author suggests that universities “will be able to share 3D plans of mementos as part of fundraising or marketing campaigns.”

University Business, v. 17, #1, pg. 24

SNHU’s Online Enrollment is Soaring, Just Don’t Compare it to a For-profit College

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, non-profit institution that has experienced great growth in the number of students enrolled in the online programs. The online enrollment is expected to reach 35,000 this year while its on-campus enrollment is 2,912. Officials there have indicated that they have adopted the “best operational practices from the for-profits (customer service, data analytics, a sense of urgency and accountability) while eschewing the practices that cast them (the for-profits) in such a poor light.”

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/09/snhu-enrollment-growth-for-profit-college_n_4545871.html

5 Ways Online Advising can Improve on Face-to-Face

The five ways identified in this article that online advising can improve the face-to-face experience are: making requirements transparent; helping advisers take actions; guiding recommendations; finding hidden information; and improving interactions. Links to examples of how to advise students where they hang out online and tips for deploying an online advising system are also included.

Campus Technology, v. 27, #5, pg. 27+

Liberal Arts Grads win Long-term

Although liberal arts graduates may have lower beginning salaries, a new report shows that, over time, the salary gap closes. By the time these graduates are in their mid-50’s, if they possess an advanced degree or undergraduate degree, they are “on average making more money than those who studied in professional and pre-professional fields, and are employed at similar rates.” The report is a joint project of AAC&U (Association of American Colleges and Universities) and the NCHEMS (National Center for Higher Education Management Systems).

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/01/22/see-how-liberal-arts-grads-really-fare-report-examines-long-term-data>

Breaking the MOOC Model

Sebastian Thrun, founder of Udacity, is quoted as saying MOOCs “aren’t working in higher education.” MOOCs 3.0 which disaggregate the elements of the MOOCs are being predicted as tweaks to the model that will improve how they are used especially on campus. Some new options include SMOCs (synchronous massive online course) that include coordinated live lectures and DOCCs (distributed open collaborative courses) that incorporate organizing course around a central topic and spreads expertise among the participants.

Campus Technology, v. 27, #5, pg. 18+

Higher Education Evolution: College in 2023

This article gathers observations from several sources to present a view of what higher education will be like in 2023. Among the predictions are: fewer and fewer classes that are fully on campus; students’ expectations of college will include institutions that are faster, cheaper, and more customizable; faculty roles will be more heavily involved in the creation of instruction, and less in the delivery of instruction; and administration will need to embrace changes in fundraising, faculty demands, and student demographics.

eCampus News, January 2014, pg. 14-15

The disruption to come

Providing a look at the economics of online higher education, the author of this blog column examines costs and productivity of universities. One statement stands out as being quite provocative: “That disruption (online offerings) will be very painful for many members of society, especially those who enjoy good salaries and high status teaching unremarkable courses at local universities.”

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/freexchange/2014/02/online-education>

Higher Education’s Big (Data) Bang

This article explores the possibilities of the use of big data in higher education. Some possibilities include research and knowledge generation. There are also possibilities of using such data to predict student performance. Big data can also serve as a training ground for preparing students to be data analysts. It lists three things colleges should consider before investing in big data: “1. Do you know what data you really need?; 2. Have you established marketing investment guidelines?; and 3. Is your organization agile enough for big data?”

eCampusNew, v. 7, #2, pg. 11+