Ready, Set, Go – Moving All Nevada Students to the Finish Line

Nevada ACT 2014 Annual Conference
Las Vegas, Nevada
February 7, 2014

David A. Longanecker
President,
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

www.wiche.edu
Ready, Set, Go – Moving All Nevada Students to the Finish Line

The Nexus Between Secondary & Post-secondary Education: Seamless transition, Slippery slope, Rocky Road, or Cliff
The 20th Century – Back in the day

- More talk than action on the Nexus
  - Lots of rhetoric
    - “All One System” – the ultimate seamless solution
      - Bud Hodgkinison (IEL), 1985
      - Reissued 1999, NCPPHE
  - Facts to Scare American into Action
    - A Nation At Risk, 1983 – Ted Bell
    - America’s Choice, High skills or Low wages, 1992
- Challenges to Action – Goals 2000
The 20th Century – Back in the day

- The Blame Game
  - From the higher education perspective
    - Not prepared for college
    - Not college material
    - Not our fault
  - From the El-Sec perspective
    - The Colleges fault for lousy teachers
  - From the polities perspective
    - The Schools faults for lousy teaching
The 20th Century – Back in the day

- But some important action regarding the Nexus
  - At federal level:
    - Gear Up (and TRIO)
    - Pathways to College
  - At the state level:
    - dual enrolment
    - Merit Scholarship for the best and brightest (Georgia HOPE)
    - Indiana 21st Century Scholars/Oklahoma promise scholarship
The 20th Century – Back in the day

- At the foundation level:
  - Boutique programs (i.e. I have a dream)
    - Focused on effectiveness
The 20th Century – Back in the day

- At the foundation level:
  - Boutique programs (i.e. I have a dream)
    - Focused on effectiveness, but not cost-effectiveness
    - Not Scalable
  - Scholarships for the best & brightest
The 20th Century – Back in the day

- The Net Effect
  - Rhetoric Around “A seamless system”
  - But Reality of:
    - Slippery slope (losing ground)
    - Rocky Road (no clear path)
    - Cliff (Many taking the plunge, but not surviving)
A New Millennium Awakening & Change

- The Awakening
  - We weren’t doing so well – slippery slope
    - Remediation/Developmental Education
      - Pervasive
      - Ineffective
  - Success stagnant while everyone else was moving forward
Percent of Adults with an Associate Degree or Higher by Age Group – U.S. & Leading OECD Countries, 2010

Source: OECD, Education at a Glance 2012, U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey One-Year Public Use Microdata Sample File
Differences in College Attainment (Associate & Higher) Between Younger & Older Adults - U.S., 2009

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey (ACS)
A New Millennium Awakening & Change

- The Awakening
  - We weren’t doing so well – slippery slope
    - Remediation/Developmental Education
      - Pervasive
      - Ineffective
  - Success stagnant while everyone else was moving forward
- Financing scheme was unsustainable
Figure 3
Public FTE Enrollment and Educational Appropriations per FTE, U.S., Fiscal 1987-2012

Note: Net tuition revenue used for capital debt service are included in the above figures. Constant 2012 dollars adjusted by SHEEO Higher Education Cost Adjustment (HECA).

Source: State Higher Education Executive Officers
Educational Appropriations per FTE Percent Change by State, Fiscal 2007-2012

Note: Dollars adjusted by HECA, Cost of Living Adjustment, and Enrollment Mix Ind.
Source: State Higher Education Executive Office
A New Millennium
Awakening & Change

- The Awakening
  - We weren’t doing so well – slippery slope
    - Remediation/Developmental Education
      - Pervasive
      - Ineffective
    - Success stagnant while everyone else was moving forward
  - Financing scheme was unsustainable
  - Persistent Equity Gaps
Projections of Nevada High School Graduates
Education Attainment of Whites and Minorities (Black, Hispanic, and Native American), Aged 25-44, Nevada, 2008-2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) File.
A New Millennium Awakening & Change

- The Awakening—Examining our Beliefs
  - Seamlessness may not be utopia
    - The Positives
      - Dual enrolment works
      - The Common Core holds great promise
      - Gear Up & Early Interventions appear to work
      - Plan and Explore are wonderful tools
    - Not So Good
      - Meaningful transitions make sense
      - Organizational culture is hard to defeat
      - The New Normal of Finance doesn’t look back
A New Millennium Awakening & Change

- The Change Agenda
  - From Access to Success
    - Completion
    - Momentum
  - From complexity to transparency
    - Consumer Information (Mentor, etc.)
    - Fixing the FAFSA & beyond
  - Discovering Cheaper, Better, Faster
A New Millennium Awakening & Change

- The Change Agenda
  - Discovering Cheaper, Better, Faster
    - Competency trumping seat time
    - Technology and innovation driving positive change
  - Reinvention of remedial – hanging the cliff
  - Looking down/Looking up
  - Using evidence to drive change
  - Greater focus on the student & learning
A New Millennium Awakening & Change

- The Change Agenda – The Rocky Road Part of the Story
  - Enamored of Innovation – Anything goes
    - Quality by Anecdote/MOOCs as the future
    - New credentials, some make believe
  - Dissing of the Boring Past
    - Accreditation
    - Classroom based instruction
- Financial new normal
- Loss of public will/perception of public good
A New Millennium
Awakening & Change

Our Challenge

Disciplining the Inevitable

Our Opportunity

Embracing Informed Change

May you live in interesting times