Issues Facing American Postsecondary Education

Colorado Mountain College Retreat
David A Longanecker, President WICHE
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Issues:

- Economic Vitality
- Demography/Equity
- Financial Constraints
- Educational Delivery
- Accountability
Percent of Adults with an Associate Degree or Higher by Age Group
U.S. & Leading OECD Countries, 2012

NCHEMS/Source: OECD, Education at a Glance 2014 (for 2012); U.S. Census Bureau
Differences in College Attainment (Associate & Higher) Between Younger & Older Adults - U.S., 2009

NCHEMS/Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey
Difference in College Attainment between Young Adults (25-34) and Older Adults (45-64), 2011

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey
Issues:

- Economic Vitality
- Demography/Equity
Difference in College Attainment Between Whites and Minorities (Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans) (2008-10)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey
Composition of Public Higher School Graduates By Race/Ethnicity 2008-09 (Actual) and 2009-10 to 2027-28 (Projected)
Composition of Public Higher School Graduates By Race/Ethnicity
2008-09 (Actual) and 2009-10 to 2027-28 (Projected)
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Public FTE Enrollment, Educational Appropriations and Total Educational Revenue per FTE, United States, Fiscal 1989-2014

Note: Constant 2014 dollars adjusted by SHEEO Higher Education Cost Adjustment. Educational Appropriations include ARRA funds. (HECA)

WICHE
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Issues and Reforms in Educational Delivery

- **Looking down**
  - Early learning high schools (the Gates redesign)
  - College/Postsecondary in all high schools (AP, dual & concurrent enrolment, IB, CTE)
  - Improving Preparation
    - Common Core/Higher Ed for Higher Standards
    - Reinventing Remedial – The High School as partner

- **Looking up**
  - Adult College Completion – low hanging fruit
  - New Adult Focus – A mighty heavy lift
  - Workforce & Workplace partnerships

- **Redefining college**
  - The “course level” movement – piece by piece
  - Demonstrated competence (more to come)
Issues and Reforms in Educational Delivery

Competence – the new coin of the realm

Competency Assessment: for the Student
- Transfer and Articulation - Trusting the community (Passport)
- Demonstrated college level learning outside the Academy
  - Prior Leaning Assessment – PLA
  - CLEP, testing out, etc.

Competency Assessment: for the Institution (Educational Improvement & Credibility)
- Predictive Analytics/MLDE
- Degree Qualifications Profiles
- Tuning

Competency Based Education As a New Delivery Model
- Direct Assessment Institutions
- CBE Straight Up
Issues and Reforms in Educational Delivery

Innovation & Disruption are good (everything else is boring)

- A partial list
  - New providers of degrees
    - The expansion of the for-profit sector
    - The expansion of most institutions on-line
    - The $10,000 Degree in Public Institutions
    - WGU expansion into multi-state “recognition”
  - New providers of courses & services
    - MOOCs
    - Courses only – Straighter Line, DreamDegree, etc.
    - Support services only – Insidetrack, Kahn Academy, Smarthinking, etc.
    - Boot Camps, App Academy,
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Accountability Related Issues and Reforms

The Completion Agenda – Access to Success

- The President’s Challenge
  - First in the World Again
  - Meet our Workforce Needs
  - 65% of Young Adults – some postsecondary credential of value – 2020

- Lumina
  - 60% by 2025

- Angst
  - Do we really need to get there?
  - Can we get there from here?
  - Will quality suffer?
Accountability Related Issues and Reforms

Student Learning – the new name of the game

- Why now
  - Readiness has “evolved”
  - “Evidence based practice” has caught on in public policy
  - Analytics can support evidence based practice (CLA, CAAP, ETS Proficiency Profile, AHELO, Work-keys, PLA, etc.)
  - Being Supported financially – Lumina’s DQP & Tuning work

- Angst
  - Whopping big change – moving to external validity
  - Still sorting out
    - Teacher’s role
    - Institution’s role
    - Governing board’s role
    - Government’s role
Accountability Related Issues and Reforms
The New Normal for Funding

- Why a new normal & not return to the old normal
  - Can’t afford the old normal
    - Hyper-inflationary model is unsustainable (unaffordable)

- What the new normal will look like
  - Performance funding is the wave to be on
    - Makes sense at the state level
    - Seeping into institutional finance – RCM
Summing it all up

- The times they are a changing
  - The way we provide education is changing
  - Who we educate is changing
  - The way we assess the quality of our enterprise is changing
  - The way we finance the enterprise is changing
- So,

To Survive & Thrive

- Prepare to Change
- Look Forward, not back
- Serve the Public Good