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Looking to Sports to Bolster Enrollments

By: David Moltz – insidehighered.com

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. — In today's tough economy, some smaller tuition-driven institutions are living paycheck to paycheck. As managing undergraduate admissions becomes a matter of institutional life and death, some of these colleges and universities are increasingly looking to their athletics departments to bring in more students, and dollars. Division III institutions of the National Collegiate Athletic Association are at the front line of this push for athletes, and recruiting at the non-scholarship level is now more expansive than ever.

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Open Education: A New Paradigm

By: Michael King – universitybusiness.com

BETWEEN 2010 AND 2025, nearly 80 million "baby boomers" will leave the workforce, just as they entered it between 1960 and 1980. When this exodus occurs, only 20 percent of workers remaining will possess the skills required for most of the jobs being created today. On a global scale, the United States, the European Union, Japan, China, and India will face critical shortfalls of 32 million technically specialized professionals. Throughout the world, the demand for educated professionals is growing faster than populations of people with the required skills.

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Half Empty or Half Full

By: Scott Jaschik – insidehighered.com

With many colleges seeing their undergraduate enrollments becoming overwhelmingly female, and women leading half of the Ivy League universities, it would be easy to make a case that women are in a good position compared to men in higher education, having persisted despite many generations of discrimination.

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What Are Freshmen Thinking?

By: Elizabeth Redden – insidehighered.com

A record 43 percent of freshmen say that a financial aid offer was a “very important” or “essential” factor in choosing which college to attend. And while an increasing number report receiving grants and scholarships — 69.3 percent received such aid in 2008 — that has not been accompanied by a corresponding drop in their use of loans, according to [the latest installment of a long-running annual survey of college freshmen](#).

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Imagining College Without Grades

By: Scott Jaschik – insidehighered.com

Many said they assumed that it was politically impossible to eliminate grades. But they heard from educators at colleges that have done so and survived to tell the tale. And notably, they heard from colleges offering evidence that the elimination of grades — if they are replaced with narrative evaluations, rubrics, and clear learning goals — results in more accountability and better ways for colleges to measure the success not only of students but of its academic programs.

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Stimulus Measure Advances in House

By: Alyson Klein – edweek.org

On a strictly party-line vote, the House Appropriations Committee has approved the \$550 billion spending portion of a mammoth bill aimed at spurring the U.S. economy.

The \$825 billion overall stimulus measure, which also includes \$275 billion in tax relief, would provide more than \$120 billion for education, to help schools and colleges avoid drastic cuts because of state and local budget shortfalls amid the recession.

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