

DID YOU KNOW?

A Look at Current Events in Higher Education

Rowan University Institutional Research and Planning

A New Frontier for Title IX: Science

By JOHN TIERNEY, *The New York Times*

Until recently, the impact of Title IX, the law forbidding sexual discrimination in education, has been limited mostly to sports. But now, under pressure from Congress, some federal agencies have quietly picked a new target: science. The National Science Foundation, NASA and the Department of Energy have set up programs to look for sexual discrimination at universities receiving federal grants. Investigators have been taking inventories of lab space and interviewing faculty members and students in physics and engineering departments at schools like Columbia, the University of Wisconsin, M.I.T. and the University of Maryland.

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'Emergency' Data Request Raises Suspicion

By Doug Lederman, *Inside Higher Ed*

Stymied in its efforts to alter federal laws and regulations to make it easier for students to transfer academic credits from one institution to another, the U.S. Education Department plans an "emergency" survey of federal Pell Grant recipients that seems designed to build a case that changes are necessary. The request has agitated some higher education officials, who questioned both the premise and the purpose of the department's information expedition. The department announced in a notice in Wednesday's *Federal Register* that it had sought emergency authority from the White House Office of Management and Budget to spend \$375,000 to survey Pell recipients who transferred from one college to another from 2004-5 to 2005-6 about their experiences in trying to transfer academic credits between institutions. Participants, who would receive \$50 each for answering the department's questions, will be asked about how many courses they sought to transfer from their original institution to the next, how many were accepted and rejected for transfer, and how much it cost them, and how much any "extra courses" cost them, in dollars and delayed graduation.

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Prerequisite for Cheyney is survival

By Susan Snyder, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

On 275 acres of rolling farmland in Delaware and Chester Counties, Cheyney University easily ranks as one of the most picturesque campuses in Pennsylvania's state university system. The historic stone buildings of its renovated Quadrangle could rival those on college campuses across America. But deep trouble festers beneath the isolated charm at the oldest historically black college in the country, so deep that state officials and some students, faculty and support staff say its future is very much in question.

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Excluding part-time students skews grad rates

By Mary Beth Marklein, USA TODAY

LAS VEGAS — If all goes as planned, Chris Doing will graduate with an associate degree in casino management in December. In his book, that's cause for celebration. Yet when his community college, the College of Southern Nevada, reports graduation data to the Department of Education, Doing won't be part of the count. Like 60% of community college students nationwide and about 75% of his classmates here, he attends part time. The Education Department asks colleges to track graduation rates each fall only for full-time students entering college for the first time. That represents about 17% of the more than 35,000 students who enrolled at this sprawling 17-campus institution.

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Day at the Beach: Sun, Surf, College Admissions Officers

By ELIZABETH GREEN, The New York Sun

A New York college is putting a new twist on early admissions, creating an instant, on-the-spot evaluation that allows students to learn whether they have been admitted 24 hours after showing their high school transcripts. The process, called Immediate Decision Week, will kick off next week at Mercy College's five locations, from the main campus in Westchester to satellites in Manhattan's Herald Square, the Bronx, and White Plains. Admissions officers will also be canvassing local beaches and malls in the five boroughs and Westchester in search of instant applicants. The college is running radio advertisements to publicize its campaign, and admissions officers have been planning for months to be prepared for their on-campus and "roving van" brigades. Contrary to what may be suspected, Immediate Decision Week does not appear to be an act of desperation.

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New UC president unveils accountability initiative for public data

By James P. Sweeney - Sacramento Bureau, The San Diego Union Tribune

SANTA BARBARA – University of California President Mark Yudof yesterday outlined a sweeping accountability initiative that he said will allow regents and the public to measure the system's performance on an array of fronts, from access and affordability to student performance. Yudof, a champion of accountability as chancellor of the University of Texas, said he hopes to have UC's first comprehensive accountability report to regents by September. His push for the preparation of a systemwide assessment in his first month on the job stands in contrast to former UC President Robert Dynes, who was accused by legislators and others of resisting repeated calls for greater accountability.

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Spellings: Reform Higher Ed From Within, Or Congress Will

By Phuong Ly, DIVERSE: Issues In Higher Education

To keep up with international competition, U.S. colleges and universities need to set a deadline to educate 10 million more people by 2012 and particularly focus on those from low-income and minority groups as well as "nontraditional" adult students, said Education Secretary Margaret Spellings. She said that if higher education officials don't act, Congress and state lawmakers may step in and force mandates that could be ill-informed and based on politicking. "We must change and adapt and respond. And we must do so immediately," said Spellings, who spoke in Chicago on Friday at the second annual national summit addressing affordability, accountability and accessibility in higher education. The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems has estimated that the country needs to educate at least 20 million more Americans by 2025, but Spellings said she wants to set a deadline by the next presidential election in 2012.

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