

# DID YOU KNOW?

*A Look at Current Events in Higher Education*

Rowan University Institutional Research and Planning

## A Plan to Cut the High School Dropout Rate

By: Winnie Hu – *The New York Times*

Last week, Gov. Jon S. Corzine and state officials announced a yearlong, multiagency initiative to boost the state's graduation rates. Called the New Jersey High School Graduation Campaign, it will be led not by the state's Department of Education but by the state attorney general's office, with funds from businesses like Verizon and Prudential, among others.

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## Combat to College

By: Lizette Alvarez – *The New York Times*

Few students make their way to campus directly from an outpatient bed at [Walter Reed Army Medical Center](#), as Mr. Blanchard did. But with the passage this summer of a new G.I. Bill that offers a greatly improved package of education benefits, there will be more. When the bill goes into effect, in August 2009, a boom in post-9/11 veterans is expected at colleges and universities across the nation. And unlike the aftermath of the Vietnam War, when few colleges and universities welcomed military veterans, a growing number are taking steps to ease the difficult transition.

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## A Considered Life – Helping Students make Deliberate Career Choices

By: Howard and Matthew Greene – *University Business*

Many college students and graduates we meet have never accessed the career planning and counseling resources provided by their college. There's a need to reach out proactively to students to bring them into the offices physically or online. Here is what we have written for student readers, in adapted form, which we hope will help administrators as they help prepare students for their work lives.

These days, career offices are not placement services that match students with employers. Rather, they can facilitate exploration. "We teach [students] how to make effective and thoughtful and deliberate decisions," said Kathy Sims, director of the career center at UCLA, in a May 16, 2008, *Chronicle of Higher Education* article.

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## College Tuition Just Keeps Climbing

By: Alison Damast – *BusinessWeek*

Tuition and fees at four-year public colleges and universities rose faster than those of private schools, yet again outpacing the rate of inflation, the [College Board](#) said in a report released Oct. 29.

The continuing rise in the cost of [higher education](#) (see [slide show](#)) comes at a time when financial turmoil and recession is prompting more families to consider public colleges instead of pricier institutions. Applications at [Binghamton University](#), one of the top-tier schools in New York's state system, are up 50% so far this year, a spokeswoman said this week. At the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, the flagship campus of the Massachusetts state university system, admissions officers are seeing a "significant increase" in early-action applications, a spokesman said.

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## Clicker U.

By: Scott Jaschik – *Inside Higher Ed*

ORLANDO — To some academics, clickers are [a great new technology](#), allowing professors to measure instantly whether students in a large class are grasping new concepts (or are even in class). [To others](#), clickers represent a depersonalizing influence.

At the annual meeting of Educause, an organization of college technology officials, the former appeared solidly in the majority. Indeed, at a session on the use of clickers, officials of three large universities reported that once professors start to use clickers, the devices' popularity took off, and not just in mammoth lecture classes.

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## Time to Fall Back From Daylight Savings Time The change does not save energy, William F. Shughart II writes

By: William F. Shughart II – *U.S. News & World Report*

Since it was first introduced during World War I and then regularized by the Uniform Time Act of 1966, Daylight Saving Time has been justified as an energy-conservation measure.

Apparently unaware of a 1976 study by the National Bureau of Standards concluding that Daylight Saving Time produces no energy savings, the sponsors of the Energy Security Act of 2005, which extended Daylight Saving Time by an additional four weeks, included a provision in the bill ordering the Department of Energy to submit a report to Congress on whether Daylight Saving Time actually reduces energy usage. The wheels of bureaucracy turn slowly, and the report has not yet been released.

Fortunately, however, we don't have to hold our collective breath until the Energy Department makes its results known. Others have studied the question and have found not only that Daylight Saving Time does not save energy but that it may cause energy consumption to rise.

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