Solutions to Challenges Facing Higher Education: Are community College Leaders & Students on the Same Page?

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Take our survey...
What do you see as challenges within the following categories?

Technology-Related
Teaching & Learning-Related
Globalization-Related
Demographic-Related
Funding-Related
Research-Related
What do you see as solutions to challenges in these categories?

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Teaching & Learning-Related
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Large Group Sharing
And the survey said...
Our “Top 5” Challenges are:

- **The need for teaching & learning** because of increasing demand for a knowledgeable & skilled workforce (Teaching & Learning: mean=4.35)

- **The increasing technological skill requirements** for faculty, staff & students (Technology: mean=4.31)

- **The increasing demand for courses and programs** that promote global competence (Globalization: mean=4.29)

- **The increasing availability of complex technology** (Technology: mean=4.28)

- **The decreasing of state funding & federal grants** for the general support of higher education (Funding: mean=4.28)
Our “Top 3” Technology-Related Solutions are:

1. **54%**: Improvement of classrooms, labs, teaching & learning environments to meet student/faculty needs (e.g. creation of collective knowledge-Wikipedia, Freebase)

2. **53%**: Greater access to technology tools and constant training & retraining in technology for everyone (e.g. social networking tools, virtual meeting workspaces)

3. **46%**: Sharing knowledge about when to use technology & when to use face-to-face
Our “Top 3”

Teaching & Learning-Related Solutions are:

1. 41%: Higher standards for & applications of learning (e.g. critical thinking, project-based learning, internships, reduce grade inflation)

2. 37%: Colleges need to become more knowledge-based, but student-centered (e.g. adjust teaching style to changing demographics of millennials & boomers)

3. 31%: Improved understanding & meeting of workforce needs (e.g. skilled, responsible citizens)
Our “Top 3” Globalization-Related Solutions are:

1. **46%**: Increasing need to adapt the curriculum to better equip students for positively contributing to an increasingly complex world (e.g. global citizens)

2. **46%**: Colleges will have to focus on their changing role within society and the changing training needs of students

3. **39%**: Increased partnerships between colleges and business & industry so colleges can be more entrepreneurial (e.g. sustainability efforts)
Our “Top 3”

Demographics-Related Solutions are:

1. **45%**: Increase the value of Pell & other grants, provide more scholarships

2. **40%**: Need greater access to education for masses (e.g. low income, minority students) & not just elite (e.g. work more with parents & students on the importance of attending college)

3. **32%**: Greater availability of college preparation services for all & not just the rich
Our “Top 3” Funding-Related Solutions are:

1. **54%**: Increased grant funding by working more with federal, state and local agencies.

2. **30%**: Increased private support (e.g. for facilities, scholarships).

3. **30%**: Increased collaboration with other colleges.
Our “Top 3” Research-Related Solutions are:

1. **69%**: Increased collaboration with other colleges, business, industry, federal, state and local communities

2. **52%**: Capitalizing on greater opportunities for involving more students in basic & applied research

3. **47%**: Increased summer opportunities here & abroad
Concluding Discussion

Summary thoughts?

Questions