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CCBA Hosts Delegation from Australia's TAFE

The Community College Baccalaureate Association recently hosted 15 members of the Australian Tertiary Mission from TAFE. The visit took place in two states and five locations. The delegation was led by Martin Riordan, CEO, TAFE Directors Australia. TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) is the chief national body incorporated to represent Australia's 58 public TAFE Institutes and university TAFE divisions, and the Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC).

A series of roundtable discussions, meetings and social events with The Mission took place in New Orleans where CCBA Executive Director, Dr. Beth Hagan, presented an overview of the status of baccalaureate degrees through American community colleges. They met with members of the CCBA

(L to R) Ian Neubard (Director of Baccalaureate Programs, Indian River State College), Patricia Frohe (Director Baccalaureate Programs, Florida Department of Education), Kristen Zimmerman (Dean, Baccalaureate and University Programs, Edison State College).



Board of Directors, Dr. Roy Flores (President), Dr. Malcolm Grothe, and Dr. Roberta Teahan at a breakfast that included Dr. John Hughes, Associate Vice Chancellor for Evaluation, Florida Department of Education.

Dr. Patricia Frohe, Director Baccalaureate Programs, Florida Department of Education, met with several Florida Colleges currently offering baccalaureate degrees. The group was hosted by the Community College Baccalaureate Association at Edison State College on Florida's west coast. Kristin Zimmerman, Dean Baccalaureate and University Programs at Edison State College, showcased innovative student engagement strategies, and the extensive nursing and

medical facilities supporting its degree courses.

They also met at Miami Dade College, where representatives convened its Faculty Deans to discuss degree courses in nursing, business supervision and management, teacher education, criminal justice, and new programs in digital film and TV, health and allied sciences and physician's assistants. Dr Donna Jennings, Dean of Workforce Education and Development at Miami Dade College, described the growth of students in College degrees as "enormous" with most Colleges reporting a 30% to 40% compound growth in student enrollments in the courses staged over the five years of their introduction.

Dr. Barbara J Bryan, President of Broward College North Campus, emphasized that the strategy for College degrees was to satisfy local and regional skill shortages. The college provided a luncheon during the meeting with their key administrators.



(L to R) Martin Riordan (CEO, TDA), Dr Rolando Montoya (Miami Dade College Provost), Bruce Mackenzie (Chair of TDA, CEO Holmesglan Institute VIC)

Online Learning Set for Explosive Growth as Traditional Classrooms Decline

By 2015, 25 million post-secondary students in the United States will be taking classes online. And as that happens, the number of students who take classes exclusively on physical campuses will plummet, from 14.4 million in 2010 to just 4.1 million five years later, according to a new forecast released by market research firm Ambient Insight.

Blended and Online Learning Growth

The report, “The US Market for Self-paced eLearning Products and Services: 2010-2015 Forecast and Analysis,” predicted a five-year compound decline of 22.08 percent per year in students attending traditional classrooms exclusively. The number of post-secondary students taking some (but not all) classes online will grow at a compound annual rate of 11.08 percent over the same five-year period, from 12.36 million in 2010 to 21.13 million in 2015. But the real growth will be seen among students taking classes exclusively online. Ambient predicted a five-year compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 23.06 percent in that area, from 1.37 million in 2010 to 3.86 million in 2015.

By that time, the number of students taking classes exclusively online will be nearly equal to the number taking classes exclusively on a physical campus, with a gap of just 240,000 students (a figure that represents less than 1 percent of the entire forecast post-secondary student population, including degree-granting institutions, vocational training schools, continuing education institutions, etc.)

Further, according to the report, “If this trend continues, by 2018, there will be more full time online students than students that take all their classes in a physical classroom.”

Top Institutions for Online Enrollment

The report also indicated that despite the high five-year compound annual growth figures, the annual growth of full-time and part-time online enrollments at the top-10 institutions seems to have slowed in the last two years, while growth at some of the smaller institutions accelerated. The report characterized the larger institutions as “pioneers in online learning with large numbers of students” that are “approaching enrollment saturation points” and aligning with previous forecasts.

In terms of the top institutions for full-time enrollment, all of the institutions in Ambient Insight’s top-5 continued to experience growth over the last two years, though that growth declined for all but one.

* American Public Education, which continued to be the largest institution in terms of full-time enrollments, climbed 31.3 percent from 2009 to 2010 (77,700 total), compared with growth of 49.2 percent from 2008 to 2009.

* Bridgepoint Education, in the second slot, saw the greatest growth among the top institutions in the same period, increasing 40.7 percent from 54,800 online enrollments in 2009 to 77,100 by the end of 2010. That growth, nevertheless, was a sharp dropoff from the 101 percent single-year growth

experienced from 2008 to 2009.

* At No. 3, UMassOnline grew 14.5 percent to 45,800 in 2010. The institution had experienced 18 percent growth the previous year.

* On the heels of 17.1 percent growth from 2008 to 2009, Walden University experienced a smaller 12.6 percent growth from 2009 to 2010, climbing to 45,600 enrollments.

* Rounding out the top-5, Liberty University was the only top institution to see increased growth in the two-year analysis. Liberty U grew 24.3 percent from 2009 to 2010, reaching an enrollment level of 45,000. It had experienced significantly less growth, 15.6 percent, in the previous year.

A similar pattern emerged for the top institutions for part-time online enrollments, according to Ambient Insight. All of the institutions in the top-5 continued to experience healthy, double-digit growth from 2009 to 2010, just slightly less healthy than the growth experienced from 2008 to 2009.

* State University of New York Learning Network saw 13.9 percent growth from 2009 to 2010, off slightly from the 17.6 percent growth experienced the previous year. Its total enrollment in 2010 was 111,400.

* The Ohio Learning Network saw 17.9 percent growth in 2010, down from 25 percent growth from 2008 to 2009. Its 2010 online enrollment figure was 110,400.

* Finally, DeVry experienced a substantial 18.1 percent growth in 2010, off from the 26.7 percent growth it experienced in 2009. Total 2010 online enrollments were 66,500, Ambient Insight reported.

Further details about the top institutions are available in Ambient Insight’s report.

The report also spotlighted some of the smaller online institutions, many of which are also experiencing double-digit growth in enrollments. Some are using partnerships with commercial suppliers to accelerate that growth further. Ambient Insight Chief Research Officer Sam S. Adkins also pointed to a creative partnership between the state of Indiana and Western Governors University.

“An interesting partnership is the deal between the state of Indiana and Western Governors University (WGU) forged in August 2010. WGU set up a private portal called WGU Indiana allowing Indiana to launch an online school with very little upfront capital. WGU Indiana operates at no cost to the state. The Indiana governor refers to the new online school as ‘Indiana’s eighth state university.’ As of January 2011, enrollment had tripled to reach 800 students, mostly working adults, just six months after launch. WGU Indiana indicates they are adding ‘nearly 100 new students each month.’ This is a unique business model that should appeal to other states if it is successful.”

Essay Contest Winner



Each year Community College Week in conjunction with the Community College Baccalaureate Association offers a one thousand dollar scholarship to the student whose essay best addresses the need for community colleges to offer or to confer the baccalaureate degree. The following is a collection of voices from students as appearing in those essays.

Community Colleges Are Portals of Hope and Transformation

Winner: Domenic Caloia

St. Petersburg College

When the economy nosedived two years ago I lost more than my job, I lost hope. At a time when friends were planning for retirement, I was refinancing my home and desperately looking for a job. I was heartbroken to discover that decades of work experience took a back seat to a four-year college degree, a requirement that I did not have. A four-year degree has become the new minimum employment standard, therefore, the time had come to return to school.

However logical that decision was, it did not come lightly. My 90-year old dad asked if I would be going away to school. He needed me nearby, and without hesitation, I told him I would always be there for him. Relocation was not an option. The dream that I grew up with of going away to college is rapidly being replaced with the reality of the college coming to the students, meeting them at their point of need.

Not everyone has an aging parent to care for, but life has a way of making demands on all of us. When that happens, the flexible options offered by community colleges such as attending part time, distance learning, and credit for life experience, can be the determining factor making higher education accessible.

Any possibility for a baccalaureate degree also had to be affordable. When I learned that many state community colleges offer four-year degree programs at rates well below university fees, it was like discovering a map to a secret treasure! For the first time in a long while, I had hope for a better future. I returned to school not knowing what to expect. What I encountered, was nothing less than transformational.

New ideas stretched my imagination and challenged my thinking. The encouragement I received from professors and students alike helped me to believe in myself at a time when the world was slamming doors on me. Working together with other students, my communication skills improved as we learned from each other. I gradually realized that I had good ideas worth sharing.

The benefits of attaining a bachelor's degree from my community college are not limited to increased employment opportunities alone. Returning to school may have begun as a desperate necessity, but it quickly became a personal pilgrimage of growth and self-discovery. Inspired with a newfound confidence and an optimistic outlook, I am actually planning to write a book and continue my studies in graduate school.

Whatever direction my life takes, receiving a four-year degree

is a major personal milestone that launches a new me into the world. For me, as with many others, local community colleges are portals of hope and transformation.

Pioneer Award Winner Belle Wheelan



When the Florida Legislature authorized community colleges to offer and confer bachelor's degrees, a significant issue arose regarding accreditation. How would these colleges be classified for accreditation purposes? Dr. Belle Wheelan took an active and helpful role in analyzing the issues and options, and led a process which resulted in providing a way for the community colleges to apply for accreditation as level 2 institutions granting baccalaureate degrees.

This was a difficult idea for many staff members and evaluators to understand and accept, but Dr. Wheelan helped make the case for this new and emerging type of institution. There are still significant issues surrounding the applied science degrees and their level of academic rigor to be accepted for credit towards the bachelor's degree. Dr. Wheelan is working in a positive and constructive manner with the Chancellor of the Florida College System to develop a policy and standards regarding this matter.

Dr. Wheelan has been bold and courageous, analytical, logical, practical, realistic and visionary regarding this important movement in the community college system which has spread to eighteen states and 43 US colleges offering 229 bachelor's degrees to meet the needs of students and employers. Without her understanding of the value of these degrees to so many students who, for many reasons, cannot attend a university, the progress of this movement would have been stymied. Instead, the movement has become a major source of bachelor's degree attainment for thousands of students.

With genuine gratitude for her foresight, compassion for students, and determination to open the doors of opportunity for the un-served and under-served students, we are proud to present this Pioneer Award for 2011 to Dr. Belle Wheelan, President of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Dr. Kenneth P. Walker
Chairman
Board of Directors

Board of Directors Changes

The CCBA Board of Directors initiated changes in membership at their meeting in San Diego. Dr. Roy Flores was elected President and Dr. David Ross was elected Vice Chairman. Dr. Kenneth P. Walker will remain as Chairman of the Board. Dr. Roy Flores is Chancellor of the Pima County Community College District in Arizona. Dr. Ross is President and CEO of Langara College in British Columbia.

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University of the West Indies

Executive Director

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12th Annual International Conference Pathways to Completion Philadelphia March 2 - 4, 2012

The 12th Annual International Conference, Pathways to Completion, will be held from March 2 to March 4, 2012, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Presentation Proposal Deadline: October 15, 2011.

The conference hotel is the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107
Philadelphia, a dynamic place where big city excitement meets hometown charm, awaits your arrival. Famous as the birthplace of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, the cradle of liberty offers much more than cobblestone streets and historical landmarks. Cultural, culinary, artistic and ethnic treasures abound in this city and its surrounding countryside. The fifth-largest city in the country, Philadelphia is a welcoming place, a city based on freedom of expression.

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