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## My Last Lecture: Higher Education: A Conversation about the Future

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## **The Environment**

- Residential 4-year Universities
- Commuter
- Community Colleges
- Online Programs
- Helicopter Parents
- Grade Inflation

## **Discussion in Four Phases**

- What is the number of students projected to attend universities?
- What are the expectations of prospective students?
- What are some universities doing?
- What are some ideas?

## **High School Graduates – Projections**

- Total Number
  - The 2008-2009 total number of high school graduates was 3,329,180.
  - There will be little to no growth including some losses until 2018-2019 with a projected number of graduates of 3,410,210.
- Private High Schools
  - The peak projection will be 2011-2012 with a total number of graduates of 312,290 students.
  - A steady decline is projected to continue through 2018-2019 (277,160 graduates).

(Source: National Center for Education Statistics, “Projections of Education Statistics to 2018,” Table 24.)

**Projected Enrollments: Higher Education Middle Alternative (Thousands) Private Four-Year Degree Granting**

	<b>Men</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Women</b>	
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Fulltime</b>	<b>Part-time</b>	<b>Fulltime</b>	<b>Part-time</b>	<b>Total</b>
2010	1494	456	1962	697	4609
2011	1502	459	1990	703	4654
2012	1508	462	2021	713	4704
2013	1519	465	2069	725	4778
2014	1531	468	2102	738	4839
2015	1538	469	2134	749	4890

**Undergraduate Enrollment: Independent Universities in Arkansas**

<b>Fall</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Total</b>
2007	5321	6073	11394
2008	5428	6217	11645
2009	5671	6358	12029

**Projected Enrollment Summary**

- Projected number of high school graduates decline until 2018-2019.
- Projected enrollment for private 4-year degree granting institutions shows 6.1% increase from the Fall 2010 to Fall 2015.
- Female to male ratio projected to be around 1.42:1 by Fall 2018.
- Arkansas private universities female to male ratio is close to 1.12:1.0.

**Three Major Concerns According to the 2009 CIRP Freshman Survey**

- Placing more emphasis on financial issues when choosing a college to attend
- Greater emphasis on getting a job and being financially well-off
- Expecting to volunteer and participate in community service

(Source: Higher Education Research Institute, Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP), 2009 Freshmen Survey)

### **Generalized Results of General Education Requirements: Public vs. Private**

- Some type of first-year course
- Religion course requirement
- Foreign language requirement

(Source: Arkansas Tech University, Baylor University, Belmont University, Cedarville University, Centenary College of Louisiana, Elon University, Harding University, Henderson State University, Louisiana College, Mississippi College, Ouachita Baptist University, Samford University, Southern Arkansas University, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and University of Central Arkansas)

### **Institutional Factors: Greatest Contributors to Attrition at Four-Year Private Colleges**

- Amount of Financial Aid
- Student-Institution Fit
- Social Environment

(Source: "What Works in Student Retention – Four-Year Private Colleges," 2004 ACT, Inc., Table 2)

### **University Responses: Greatest Contributing Factors to Retention at Four-Year Private Colleges (Non-Programmatic)**

- Freshman Seminar/University
- Academic Advising Center
- Comprehensive Learning Assistance Center/Lab
- Learning Communities
- Mentoring Program
- Internships

(Source: "What Works in Student Retention – Four-Year Private Colleges," 2004 ACT, Inc., Table 8)

### **What Other Private Universities (Programmatic) Are Doing in Response to the Changing Environment**

- Degree Completion Programs
- Graduate Programs
- Online Programs
- Health-Related Programs
- Technical Programs
- Specialized Experiences (Active Learning)

(Source: Various college and university web sites)

### **The Trek at Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana**

- a graduation requirement that:
  - encompasses the exploration of career, culture, and community
  - incorporates into the required curriculum distinctive, experience based programs for students to enhance their self-knowledge and social awareness through career/graduate school preparation, intercultural engagement and civic involvement.

(Source: Centenary College web site)

### **The Lyon Experience at Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas**

- Enhances the technological and outside-the-classroom educational experiences, providing a student-centered, experience-rich liberal arts education for the 21st century.
- Includes the following elements:
  - laptops fully loaded with the software needed for Lyon instruction and extracurricular activities
  - an “experiential transcript” documenting student achievement outside the classroom, a tool that can assist in job placement at graduation
  - an endowed international studies program that provides two weeks of overseas travel with students being responsible only for meals and incidentals
- Contributed to 24% enrollment increase from 2004 (487) to 2009 (604).

(Source: Lyon College web site)

### **The Elon Experience at Elon University in Elon, North Carolina**

Offers experience opportunities (documented on a separate transcript) in the following areas:

- Leadership Development
- Service
- Internships
- Study Abroad
- Undergraduate Research

(Source: Elon University web site)

### **Your Hendrix Odyssey at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas**

Students are required to complete three of the following experiences:

- Artistic Creativity
- Global Awareness
- Professional and Leadership Development
- Service to the World

- Undergraduate Research
- Special Project

(Source: Hendrix College web site)

### **Ideas for a Small University**

- Carefully designed new undergraduate degree programs (particularly in health-related fields and/or joint programs)
- A value-added online degree completion program
- Carefully considered graduate programs (particularly in health-related fields and/or joint programs)
- Academic Advising/Learning Assistance Center
- Embrace the current technology
- Mentorship Program
- Consider a national fraternity/sorority system
- Build relationships with community colleges
- Provide on-campus quiz-bowl type tournaments for high school students
- Internships
- Follow the money
- Learning communities
- Initiate an active learning program

### **Naming Options**

- Journey
- Voyage
- Passage
- Passport
- Expedition
- Search
- Walk

### **Possible Components**

- Civic engagement
- International experience
- Collaborative learning
- Outside-of-class engagement and experiences
- Language immersion: become conversationally proficient
- Outdoor learning
- University-wide alumni mentor program