HIGHER EDUCATION IN CRISIS

Higher Education and Distance Learning

MAY 15, 2020
Join us by video rather than by phone and add your full name on your tile

Mute your audio unless you are speaking

Virtually “raise your hand” to be recognized by today’s moderator

Type your questions into the chat box on the right side of your screen

Do not share your screen under any circumstances

This meeting will be recorded. The archive and slides will be publicly posted: https://www.ncsl.org/research/education/covid-19-virtual-meetings.aspx
AGENDA FOR TODAY’S MEETING

- Welcome
- Introduction to NCSL's Higher Education Team
  - Sunny Deye, Program Director
  - Marilyn Villalobos, Policy Associate
  - Andrew Smalley, Research Associate
  - Austin Reid, Committee Director, State/Federal Relations
- Today's Speaker
  - Marni Baker-Stein, Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Western Governors University
- Questions
- Review of Upcoming Meetings
Type in the Chat Box:

- What state are you from?
- What are you wondering about distance learning and higher education?
Marni Baker-Stein, Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Western Governors University
ONLINE OR IN PERSON, 
THE GOAL IS 
STUDENT SUCCESS 

Higher ed needs to change if it will continue to help states build resilient, job-ready workers 

Marni Baker Stein, Provost 
Western Governors University
ABOUT WGU

- Nonprofit, founded in 1997 by 19 U.S. governors
- 121,000+ full time students and 183,000+ graduates in all 50 states
- 60+ degrees in 4 colleges for high-demand fields:
  - Business
  - K–12 teacher education
  - IT
  - Health professions
- Competency-based, all online
- Affordable, flat-rate tuition per term

Created to increase access to educational pathways that are aligned with the future of work, empowering individuals for lifelong success
Post-COVID Higher Ed

What do workers need and how can higher ed adapt?
Today’s Student = The Working Learner

64% work while in college
Almost 40% are older than 25
1/4 are parents
1/2 are financially independent


NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES
1/3 Americans believe they will need more education and training to replace a job lost during COVID-19.

Of that 34%, over half (54%) said that if they were given $5,000 to invest in their education, they would spend it on online education.

60% of American workers say they prefer nondegree and skills-based education and training programs.

Source: Strada Education Network Public Viewpoint COVID-19 Education and Work Survey
States & colleges alike need to invest in digital infrastructure
  ▪ High speed internet access
  ▪ Digital infrastructure as risk mitigation
Reimagine the community of care available to students
Put the student at the center of the experience
Ensure value and career relevancy
Cultivate strong ties with employers & workforce agencies
Focus on equity and inclusion

IMPERATIVES

ONLINE OR IN PERSON, THE GOAL IS STUDENT SUCCESS
QUESTIONS: TYPE THEM IN CHAT BOX OR UNMUTE YOUR LINE TO ASK
UPCOMING EDUCATION COVID-19 VIRTUAL MEETINGS

- Student Mental Health: Addressing Challenges When Schools are Closed - Tuesday, May 19
- No Virtual Meeting on Friday, May 22 – Happy Memorial Day!
- Learning Loss and Approaches to Summer Learning - Tuesday, May 26
- Guidance for Schools Reopening in the Fall – Friday, May 29
- Lessons Learned from Around the World – Tuesday, June 2
- Stories from the Districts: A Discussion with School Leaders – Friday, June 5
- The Pandemic’s Impact on the Teacher Workforce: Recruitment & Preparation – Tuesday, June 9
- The Pandemic’s Impact on the Teacher Workforce: Supports for Classroom Teachers – Friday, June 12
- Pandemic Impact on Early Learning – Tuesday, June 16
- Assessing Student Learning in the Fall – Friday, June 19
- State Revenue Forecasts and Tracking Federal and State Ed Spending – Tuesday, June 22
- Evidence-Based Policymaking – Friday, June 26

See NCSL's Ed COVID page for the recording and materials from previous meetings.