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From: owner-spacgroup@truman.edu on behalf of Gilchrist, Lou Ann [lcg@truman.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2010 2:00 PM
To: spacgroup@truman.edu
Subject: Environmental Scanning Contribution

Dear Colleagues,

I was doing some reading today and came across an article describing the results of a taskforce charged with environmental scanning in higher education. This report was completed in 2010 and identified the following trends affecting higher education. I thought I would share this list as it may be complementary to what we will hear over the next few weeks.

Globalization:

- Increasingly integrated, interdependent economies.
- Expanding and highly complex international knowledge networks
- Intensifying availability of communication and information technology
- Movement of millions of students and scholars around the world – learning, teaching, conducting research, disseminating knowledge, and spreading cultural influences

Demand for Higher Education

- Dramatic increase in demand fueled by postindustrial knowledge-driven shifts in economies
- Expansion of education systems, especially in Europe, Japan, Latin American, India, and China
- Increased pressure on college infrastructures as a result of increased enrollment
- Predicted increase in life expectancies and corresponding increases in the world populations

Gaps in Educational Attainment and Achievement

- Anticipated increases in higher education participation of under-represented minority and lower socioeconomic groups, creating new opportunities
- Widening gap in literacy and numeracy skills across diverse U.S. school-age and adult populations
- Significant population increases among people of Hispanic or Latino origin, raising the importance of understanding multiple cultures
- Glaring inequities across economic and cultural groups in access to opportunities in higher education

Expanding Technologies

- Developing electronic technologies multiply the modes and accelerate the speed of communications
- Expanding distance education offerings increase demand for services beyond traditional timeframes
- Enlarging social network systems have implications for teaching, learning and education services
- Increasing electronic media venues enhance the capabilities of student organizations and dissent beyond public physical acts

Economic Fluctuations and Higher Education

- Restricted public funding, leading to greater reliance on tuition and fees as well as private support
- Intensified pressure for educational access, affordability, higher quality, and better outcomes
- Shift of education costs to the individual, requiring greater accountability
- Creation of legislative initiatives that include unfunded mandates and compliance requirements

Adapted from "Mapping the Future of Student Affairs: Task Force Highlights, Opportunities and Challenges" in *Leadership Exchange*, Summer 2010.