Higher Education News

Universities See Sluggish Endowment Returns - Endowments boomed in fiscal year 2021 but returns have since fallen. Fiscal year 2023 brought minimal growth for most of the nation’s top endowments.

U.S. Lags in AI Use Among Students, Surveys Find - Students across the globe weighed in on their AI usage, with the U.S. lagging behind.

Early Application Data Are Rosy, if Complex - Applications this fall rose 41 percent over pre-pandemic levels, buoyed by a big upswing in minority applicants.

A ‘Near-Record’ International Student Surge - U.S. enrollment of international students surpassed pre-pandemic levels in 2022–23, fueled by sharp upticks from India and Africa. Will the trend continue?

Admissions Offices Need More Students and Less ‘Drudgery.’ Is AI the Answer? - Admissions staff shared various ways they’re using, or thinking about using, AI.

A New Approach to Categorizing Colleges - Changes in Carnegie Classifications will simplify requirements for top research category and give colleges multiple labels instead of one, to make it easier to compare peers.

In ‘Buyer’s Market,’ Tuition Increases Haven’t Outpaced Inflation - The College Board’s 2023 “Pricing and Student Aid” report shows that average published tuition and fees increased this year, but the increase was less than the rate of inflation.

What Do Universities Owe Their Donors? - Some megadonors are outraged over institutions’ responses to the Israel-Hamas war. But experts say big checks shouldn’t buy influence over university leaders.

Colleges Predict Tuition Increases, Layoffs Under Proposed Overtime Rule - The Biden administration wants to dramatically expand employees’ eligibility for overtime. Supporters say that’s only fair. Institutions say it will cost them millions.

Article of the Month:

The Israel-Hamas War Is Escalating. Colleges Are Caught in the Middle - They’re being told by advocates, alumni, donors, faculty, & students to denounce, support, and shut up about the roiling protests over the conflict.
Legacy admissions remains in the spotlight. But accurate data on the subject is elusive. - Institutions sometimes report conflicting information about legacy status, complicating research efforts while debates on college access intensify.

Basic needs funding can boost student persistence, report suggests - Students at Southern New Hampshire University stayed enrolled in greater numbers when they received emergency grants to help cover necessities.

How AI Could Address Financial Aid Office Woes - As the offices struggle to give students consistent information about loan repayments and the FAFSA delay, some institutions turn to AI to help.

College Completion Rates Remain Stagnant - After years of incremental but steady growth, six-year completion rates have been at a standstill since 2020. Is pandemic hangover to blame, or something bigger?

Ivy+ News

Northwestern gets green light to move forward with Ryan Field rebuild - Evanston City Council approves the University’s proposal to rebuild the stadium, host concerts and other community events.

Duke University Receives $100 Million from The Duke Endowment - Largest single award will boost student recruitment, expand access, support Duke students from minority-serving institutions and deepen community engagement across the Carolinas.

Penn reports success on Climate and Sustainability Action Plan goals - Sustainability Director Nina Morris recently shared with the Board of Trustees an update on progress.

University endowment reports ‘solid’ return in FY 2023 - Cornell’s endowment achieved a 3.6% return in the fiscal year ending June 30, adding a net investment gain of $355M to finish the year valued at just over $10B.
Brown doubles enrollment of undergraduate U.S. military veterans, permanently funds full scholarships - A year ahead of schedule, the University has increased student veteran enrollment and exceeded its fundraising goal, cementing a future that supports veterans from all income levels and U.S. military backgrounds.

Vanderbilt University moves to settle antitrust lawsuit - A group of students sued Vanderbilt and 16 other top-ranked colleges early last year, alleging they had illegally conspired on their financial aid formulas.

Cornell Unionization:
- Cornell Grad Student Workers Overwhelmingly Vote to Unionize
- Weill Cornell Med College Postdocs Unionize in Lopsided Vote

Regional News
Vermont college system selects Bethany College president as new chancellor - Elizabeth Mauch will take over Vermont State Colleges as it contends with the fallout of a rocky merger of its four-year universities.

Vermont State to Cut Fewer Faculty Positions Than Planned - Cuts at Vermont State University will not be as deep as expected after 17 faculty members accepted buyouts, six decided to retire and three will not have their contracts renewed.

Magdalen College Announces Closure - Magdalen College of the Liberal Arts, a small Catholic institution in New Hampshire, will close at the end of the academic year due to low enrollment and financial challenges.

Dartmouth News
Progress Made on Key Initiatives at Trustee Meeting - Board members look forward to housing, energy, & dialogue projects in 2024.

Geisel Researchers Receive $4 Million Grant to Study Disparities in Primary Care
Employee Spotlight
Denise Moses
Department: Procurement
Joined Dartmouth: April 1997

About Denise’s Role: I was hired in April of 1997 as a Purchasing Specialist, where I entered paper requisitions into the Oracle system to create PO’s and faxed orders to vendors, assisted with the copier contract, and learned the furniture category which we were standardizing on. I helped create the standards program for loaner chairs and furniture which we stocked in the stockrooms. This led to designing offices with furniture and assisting with new buildings and renovated ones. The warehouse became our used furniture area where we would put together complete desk sets, reuse chairs, bookcases, files etc. From there I began working on contracting with office supplies and other contracts, and assisting with anything that was needed. Today I am a Contract Manager, working in Agiloft, OnBase, PaymentWorks, Oracle, assisting with audits and anything else that is needed!

Q&A with Denise

Favorite Dish to cook at home?
My favorite dish is anything with spaghetti sauce! I love making Veal Parmesan and Zucchini Parmesan!

Where do you live?
I live in Charlestown, NH. We have a campsite in Ascutney, VT where we spend weekends in the summer and enjoy spending time with my husband, children, and grandchildren.

What was your first job?
My very first paid job was assisting with dog grooming. I would wash and dry the animal after they received a haircut. Poodles were the best as they had the poofed-up hair. I think I was paid $2.00 per animal!

Have you ever won a contest?
When I was in school, I won two coloring contests. Once in 4th grade and once in 8th grade.

Cannonball into the pool or toe dip?
I tip toe into the pool! I like to get used to the water before getting in!