Role of Liberal Arts

Although 90% of CAOs believe that liberal arts education “is central to undergraduate education — even in professional programs,” there is recognition that liberal arts programs may need some adjustments to sufficiently prepare students for careers.

Controlling Rising Prices

CAOs are acutely aware of higher education’s financial pressures, as well as the public’s growing impatience for high tuition rates, but aren’t confident in their institution’s ability to control rising prices for students, and their families. They are looking for new strategies and economic models to sustain their institutions.

Attention to Student Preparation

Although 48% of CAOs from all institutional sectors believe that their institution is very effective at preparing students for the professional world, many are taking steps to address the concerns that students do not have the skills and qualities needed for the workplace.

Awarding Academic Credit

To address growing higher education costs and changing student and employer demands, CAOs are considering competency-based strategies that allow students to progress as they demonstrate mastery of academic content, regardless of time, place, or pace of learning.

Expanding Access

In order to serve more students and provide the flexibility they need, CAOs are giving serious consideration to online courses and offerings as a solution.