

**Docket Item:**

Strategic Planning – Background Readings.

*General: Equity and Opportunity*

- Andrew Delbanco, a Humanities professor at Columbia, clearly synthesizes of many of the forces at work in higher education and how they appear to foretell a continuing decline in educational opportunity in the US. From the [New York Review of Books](#) (July 9, 2015).
- A [New York Times](#) editorial writer on “The Promise and Failure of Community Colleges” (February 17, 2015).
- In her [Atlantic](#) feature story “The Upwardly Mobile Barista,” Amanda Ripley reports on both our challenges, as well as some promising innovations, for expanding educational opportunity.
- In “America’s Unmet Promise,” the American Association of Colleges and Universities describes the equity imperative for higher education (January, 2015). Summary [here](#); excerpt [here](#).

*Public investment*

NEW

- The executive summary of this 2013 [report](#) from the National Association of State Budget Officers contains useful information about fiscal trends in higher education, as well as possible state responses.

*Evolving delivery models*

NEW

- A senior fellow at the Brookings Institution predicts that information asymmetry puts American higher education “on the verge of an enormous and rapid transformation.” From [Real Clear Markets](#) (June 9, 2015).
- A recent [Portland Tribune article](#) reports on local innovations in the delivery of higher education (August 4, 2015).

*Philanthropic interests*

- A news report on the Gates Foundation’s “more assertive” work in higher education. From [Inside Higher Ed](#) (March 11, 2015).
- Jobs for the Future argues that “states and colleges haven’t made system wide commitments to strategies like streamlining degree requirements, accelerating remediation, and financially rewarding colleges for raising graduation and persistence rates.” From the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) (December 18, 2014).

*Workforce needs*

- EcoNorthwest’s [report](#) for the Commission last fall used data from the Oregon Department of Employment and the HECC to project how well expected degree “production” levels match expected workforce needs (November 3, 2014).

*Federal initiatives*

- “Little-noticed legislative tweaks to a small, obscure loan repayment program” have resulted in a “quiet revolution in helping lift the burden of student debt.” From the New America Foundation, via [New York Times](#) (January 25, 2015).
- Arne Duncan outlines the Obama administration’s final push on higher education policy, saying it is time to “go further” than discussions about rising levels of student loan debt. From [Inside Higher Ed](#) (July 27, 2015).
- The feds push forward with the “gainful employment” rule, ratcheting up pressure on the for-profit sector. From [Inside Higher Ed](#) (April 17, 2015).

*Demography (is destiny?)*

- (materials to come)

*Public opinion***NEW**

- See the attached scan of public opinion literature by DHM Research.
- The Gallup-Purdue Index – a survey of 30,000 US college graduates – finds high levels of correlation between six key college experiences and long-term career and life success. A digest version (with links to more) is [here](#).

*Addendum***NEW**

- The Oregon Community College Association would like again to draw the Commission’s attention to the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) “[Empowering community colleges to build the nation’s future](#)” report (2014). The report represents a strategic plan, of sorts, for community colleges specifically, and may be especially useful to the Commission as it starts to identify specific strategic opportunities for Oregon.