



# PRESSURE ON THE PROVOSTS

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The 2014 *Inside Higher Ed* / Gallup Survey of Chief Academic Officers  
Wednesday, February 5 at 2 p.m. EST

With support from Deltak, the Education Advisory Board,  
Pearson and Jenzabar



# Presenters

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# Methodology

- Survey conducted by Gallup in December 2013.
- Responses received from 842 provosts or chief academic officers.
- Complete anonymity for those responding, but coding allows for sorting by sector.
- Gallup reports a 95 percent confidence level of margin of error of plus/minus 3 percentage points.

# Budgets I – Cuts Aren't Over

- **5%** strongly agree and another **18%** agree that the economic downturn is "effectively over" at their institutions.
- **7%** of public university provosts strongly agree that their institutional finances improved in the last year, **10%** say so at for-profit colleges, and **15%** at private nonprofit institutions.



# Budgets II – Looking Back, Looking Forward

## Budgets: Provosts Agreeing/Strongly Agreeing That:

	Public	Private Nonprofit	For-Profit
New spending on academic programs will come from reallocation, not new revenues.	75%	57%	52%
My institution used economic downturn to make tough but necessary changes in academic programs.	47%	37%	52%
My institution needs to reduce number of academic programs by end of 2014-15 academic year.	25%	27%	34%

# Budgets III – Priorities for Spending

Where do provosts plan to allocate new funds?

	Public	Private Nonprofit	For-profit
Arts and sciences	23%	37%	21%
Professional and pre-professional	53%	61%	63%
Online	52%	53%	74%
STEM	66%	54%	52%



# Budgets IV – Money Rules

Provosts on whether financial considerations dictate choices on new programs:

	Public	Private Nonprofit	For-Profit
Strongly agree	50%	57%	36%
Agree	36%	31%	48%
Neutral	10%	5%	10%
Disagree	3%	4%	7%
Strongly disagree	1%	3%	0%



# MOOC Skeptics

- 2% of provosts strongly agree that the "recent excitement over MOOCs is justified."
- 5% in nonprofit sectors, 17% in for-profit sector report awarding credit for MOOCs.
- 82% of provosts believe MOOC courses should undergo accreditor review.





# Open to Competency-Based Education

## Competency-Based Education: Provosts Who Agree/Strongly Agree That:

	Public	Private Nonprofit	For-Profit
Competency-based education can increase the proportion of Americans with postsecondary degrees and credentials.	55%	38%	64%
Competency-based education can save students considerable money.	68%	54%	71%
It should be easier for students to earn credits and degrees based on competency, not seat time.	62%	50%	69%
Competency-based education may be damaging to general education.	39%	50%	37%

# Provosts on Obama Plan: No Thanks

- **1%** of provosts (and not a single provost at a private nonprofit college) believe Obama's plan would help prospective students and their families make meaningful comparisons between institutions.
- **1%** of all provosts strongly agreed that their institutions' strengths would be reflected by the ratings.
- **1%** strongly agreed and another **8 percent** agreed that their weaknesses would be reflected.



# Preparing Students for Jobs

- 56% say their institutions are "very effective" and 40% say their institutions are "somewhat effective" at preparing students for the world of work.
- 33% strongly agree and 54% agree that their institutions are doing more to help students prepare for jobs.
- Other polls suggest that outside of academe, there is less confidence

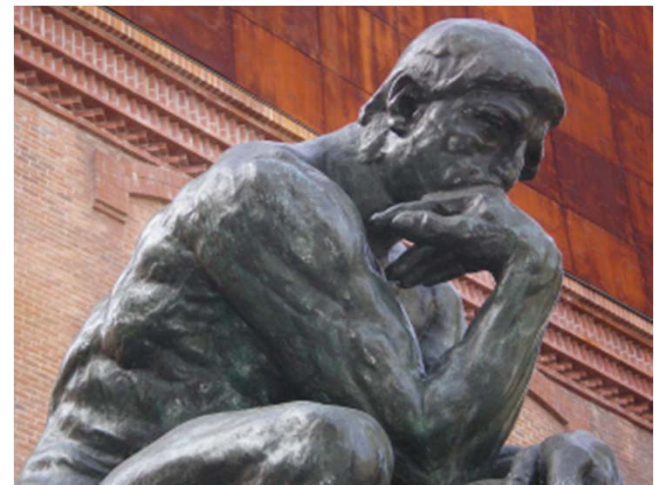


# The Divide With Faculty Members

- Most provosts – across sectors – would favor a system of long-term contracts over tenure.
- Most provosts don't believe there will be significant move away from reliance on adjunct labor.
- Two-thirds of provosts agree or strongly agree that there is a “fundamental divide” between faculty members and administrators.

# Provosts and the Life of the Mind

- **55%** say they "remain engaged" in their original scholarly discipline.
- In last 2 years, **38%** of provosts have taught a course in their field, and **31%** have published
- In last 5 years, **62** have taught a course in their field and **37%** have published.




# Happy as Provost, Ambivalent About Presidencies

- 52% of provosts strongly agree that they are pleased that they pursued administrative work, and 33% agree.
- Provosts are split on whether they aspire to presidencies.

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FEATURED JOB




**President**  
Ball State University, **Muncie, IN**

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**President, El Centro College**  
Dallas County Community College District, **Dallas, TX**

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**President, North Lake College**  
Dallas County Community College District, **Dallas, TX**

North Lake College opened in 1977 as one of the seven separately accredited two-year colleges in the Dallas County Community College District. The college's Central Campus sits on 276 acres in the Las Colinas area of Irving, Texas...

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# Questions?

- Q&A
- If we don't get to your question and/or you have suggestions for next year's survey, please email us at [editor@insidehighered.com](mailto:editor@insidehighered.com)
- Download the survey booklet with more detail here: [www.insidehighered.com/news/survey](http://www.insidehighered.com/news/survey)



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