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Group 5

Topic: Positioning Our Institutions for Future Possibilities of Funding Cuts

Our Truth: For many of us Title III funds are the life-blood of our colleges and universities.

Questions discussed included the following:

1. What is your contingency plan if Title III funds are cut at the college? Do you have one? If your institution does not have one, what would it do if the Title III funds were cut unexpectedly? What are the programs/areas that would be lost?

2. Without Title III funds (or cut significantly) would your institution no longer exist?

Dialogue:

A. Many Title III administrators agree that major programs would no longer exist at their institutions if Title III funds were cut or not received at all.

B. Topic Jump Starters Were Discussed:

1. A few programs should be so vital to the college/university that they could or have become institutionalized. A) If we answered “No” on this question throughout the history of the program, that is not a good thing. B) some programs may be funded by Title III for 15-20 years but they must evolve and change focus with the understanding that these funds are used to transform the institution (without supplanting). C) Prioritizing programs in the face of budget cuts is imperative. Making the Title III programs “lean” is also imperative.
2. Success stories were shared. An example: One institution’s Development Office used Title III funds to develop the office and hired a data entry person. Now it is thriving on its own and no longer need Title III funds for operation.
3. Some Title III programs provide grants to faculty members which could be used as leverage for their programs for potential outside donors (matching endowments are other examples).
4. We are to inform our leadership of the climate and what things are coming down the pike so they are not blindsided. Contact and information received from the Department of Education concerning Title III should be sent to the Title III director and the President of the institution.
5. Title III programs with over 30-40% in personnel costs, is top heavy. The more personnel you have the more performance evidence must be provided (Title III administrators share this with the President).
6. Have to be prepared for any shift in emphasis of strategic plans and Title III programs. Personnel changes could cause a major shift. We must remain agile and stay abreast of activities at all times.
7. We have to always be in the know concerning funding of Title III programs.
 - Alumni (courting, investing and effectively communicating with alumni)

- Board relationships (cultivating and developing board relationships that will aid the institution in the event Title III funds are cut or need to be augmented to address the transformative needs of the institution).