

Eduventures' 2016 Higher Ed Predictions: A Year to Unite

by Dr. Kenneth Hartman | Jan 5, 2016 | All Topics

With the start of the new year, it's time for Eduventures to take our best shot at predicting some of the top issues and opportunities that higher education institutions will face in 2016.

Our annual predictions are based not only on our twenty years of experience serving higher education institutions and their leaders, but also on our close examination of the major external circumstances (e.g., economic and geopolitical) we believe the nation will likely face in the next 12 months, such as:

- In the last year of the Obama Administration, we expect new regulations on student loan repayment, accreditation, and the for-profit sector. We do not expect that the Higher Education Reauthorization Act will be reauthorized in 2016.
- We predict a positive outlook for the economy, enough to persuade the Federal Reserve to increase interest rates at least twice in 2016. This means higher borrowing costs for individuals and institutions.
- Terrorist threats at home and abroad will heighten security concerns, exposing U.S. universities and colleges' dependence on international students at a time when domestic enrollment is flat.
- Higher education will take center stage in the presidential election, where it will become a populist issue (e.g., cost, debt, ROI, outcomes, accreditation, and economic mobility). The "free community college" idea will get more attention.
- Continued campus unrest over a host of social and economic issues will be coordinated and orchestrated by both campus-based and community-based organizations.

2016 Predictions