The future of ICT in higher education: EDUCAUSE

From the EDUCAUSE perspective, higher education and technology are both at inflection points that will lead to potentially massive changes in the coming years and decades. The industry of higher education is under increasing pressure to reduce costs and develop graduates fully prepared to enter the workforce. State and federal governments are scrutinizing higher education as critically as they have the healthcare industry. Government funding for higher education institutions and research are diminishing, new potential accountabilities are looming (e.g., the Obama administration's college scorecard), and even the basis for the US higher education system – a credentialed degree – is being challenged as the primary post-secondary credential. Venture capitalists and corporations are looking for new and profitable opportunities. Countries outside the US are entering the higher education marketplace with determination and ambition. Colleges and universities are facing new competition and accountabilities but are not yet broadly willing or prepared to adapt.

Technology presents numerous opportunities. The future of ICT in higher education will be shaped by the degree to which higher education institutions can:

- Adopt new sourcing options and management practices to simplify management of commodity IT infrastructure, platforms, applications, and services and to increase their agility and ability to innovate
- Embrace mobile technologies and deliver applications and experiences as engaging and effective as consumer providers'
- Apply analytics to improve student success and institutional productivity and efficiency
- Enhance and expand research computing and digital scholarship technologies and services to remain competitive in a global marketplace
- Ue technology to improve pedagogy and develop entirely new forms of teaching and learning that can educate diverse students cost effectively, at massive scale and distance, and innovatively
- Use technology to enter new marketplaces and support new business models
- Determine how to leverage the Internet of Things as effectively as other industries will
- Protect data security and individuals' privacy without impeding academic openness and collaboration
- Prepare and engage faculty to espouse and adopt, rather than resist and impede, the present and coming changes

Challenges this project should address

- Accelerating higher education's ability to innovate with and adopt technology rapidly and effectively
- Helping higher education use technology to reduce costs
- Developing analytics capabilities and models at scale to improve institutional and individual decision-making and success
- Using technology to transform pedagogy and learning and to make it more affordable and accessible
- Defining and describing technology's role in enabling new models of collaboration and competition in an international age
- Predicting the biggest and most likely opportunities and risks that technology can contribute to and identifying the technologies most likely to be of use