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[Heritage University aims to grow \(Seattle Times/Yakima Herald-Republic\)](#)

Posted:

When John Bassett assumed the presidency of Heritage University last summer, he pledged to help make it into a school anyone would be proud to attend. Slowly but surely, staff members say that's happening. Bassett has hired a record number of new faculty this fall. He took part in developing the university's 10-year expansion plan, and he's devoting more resources to help students achieve their career goals. He's even questioning whether Heritage can develop a research agenda to investigate everything from health care to land-use policies in the Yakima Valley.

[15 Colleges Offering Tuition Discounts \(SmartMoney.com\)](#)

Posted:

To attract students and families turned off by the potential for six-figure tuition bills, a growing number of private colleges are taking a page out of the retail playbook: They are cutting their prices. Most recently, Seton Hall University announced that it would offer tuition discounts of up to 66% for academically qualified students, joining more than a dozen schools across the country that have announced similar programs in the last few months. Here's a rundown of the new tuition discounts and deals private colleges are rolling out.

Washingtons Quietest Disaster - Editorial (Wall Street Journal)

Posted:

To preserve Team Obama's priority of maintaining a maximum Pell grant of \$5,550 per year and doubling the total annual funding to \$36 billion since President Obama took office, Democrats recently decided to make student-loan borrowers pay interest on their loans for their first six months out of college. Washington used to give the youngsters an interest-free grace period. Taxpayers might cheer this change if the money wasn't simply being transferred to another form of education subsidy. But it seems almost certain to raise default rates as it puts recent grads under increased financial pressure.

After Arrest, a Wider Inquiry on SAT Cheating (New York Times)

Posted:

When Samuel Eshaghoff, a 19-year-old sophomore at Emory University, was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly accepting money to take the SAT for six Long Island high school students, testing officials said it was an isolated event. But school officials and prosecutors disagree, and a continuing investigation is focusing on other schools and students. School officials say the testing system has many flaws, most notably the fact that there are no consequences for cheaters.

Republicans Push Pell Changes (Inside Higher Ed)

Posted:

House Republicans released a proposed budget for the 2012 fiscal year on Thursday that would preserve the maximum Pell Grant at \$5,550 but change the program's eligibility criteria, make deep cuts to colleges that serve minorities, and block enforcement of some of the Education Department's controversial program integrity rules. One would-be beneficiary of the legislation: The National Institutes of Health, which would see its budget rise by 3.3 percent.

Celebrating Frugality (Inside Higher Ed)

Posted:

Historically, most higher education institutions have spent big on celebrations to honor new presidents. At some institutions, these weeklong celebrations have ended up costing several hundred thousand dollars. But several presidents have noted that such celebrations are no way to win friends at a time when their first acts in office may include budget cuts, layoffs, furloughs, and pay freezes. They have also recognized that cutting costs from inauguration ceremonies, or even the ceremonies altogether, can help win them support.

[A Tale of Two Colleges \(Inside Higher Ed\)](#)

Posted:

It's about a three-hour drive from Missouri State University to Westminster College. The former is in the Ozarks; the latter is between Kansas City and St. Louis. Neither institution is an obvious international destination. Even so, both institutions have dramatically increased their international student enrollments -- by very different means. At a time when more and more colleges and universities, big and small, public and private, are seeking more international students, the two colleges illustrate the kinds of choices involved.

[How Colleges Punish Families Who Choose to Save - Column \(The Atlantic\)](#)

Posted:

The FAFSA requires a heap personal and financial information about a student's family, such as income, savings, and investments. Using this data, the government calculates how much financial aid the it will provide the student through grants and loans. From a pure logic standpoint, this makes sense: if a family has savings with which it can pay for college tuition and related expenses, then it should. But this logic has a clear flaw -- saving doesn't get there by accident; it is a behavior that you generally have some control over. So by considering savings, the government and universities discriminate against families who make the choice to save.

[Education Dept. to Propose New Accountability Gauge for Teacher-Training Programs \(Chronicle of Higher Education\)](#)

Posted:

The Education Department will release a report on Friday calling for new regulations that would tie teacher-training grants to the test scores of the teachers' students. According to sources familiar with the report, the department wants to hold teachers' colleges accountable for how well their graduates' future students perform on standardized tests. Under its plan, states would be required to report test scores for students taught by graduates of their federally financed teacher-education programs.

[Continue Pells great legacy - Editorial \(South County Independent, Wakefield, R.I.\)](#)

Posted:

The state's two U.S. senators are waging a campaign to protect the Pell Grant, funds awarded annually to needy students for college tuition. Rep. Denny Rehberg (R-Mont.) created a minor stir when he likened the grants to "the welfare of the 21st century." To call a college grant "welfare" implies that we are rewarding students with no expectation of a return on that investment. In fact, millions of hardworking citizens have college degrees thanks to the program.

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