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## House Approves HE Act

The House overwhelmingly approved the reauthorization of HEA by supporting HR 4137, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act. Included in the approval was pressure on colleges to control costs and defeat of ABOR language.

<http://www.insidehighered.com/layout/set/print/news/2008/02/08/hea>

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## Linking College To The Real World

Business leaders surveyed claim colleges need to provide more and different measures to evaluate students' abilities to apply college learning to real-world settings. Survey results suggest colleges aren't offering enough opportunities for students to "learn what they need to know" when they move from the educational world to the "real world".

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2008-01-22-graduate-assessment\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2008-01-22-graduate-assessment_N.htm)

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## Weighted Student Formula And School Empowerment

While the focus of this article is on K-12 schools, there are important parallels for higher

education, especially community colleges.

[http://www.reason.org/commentaries/snell\\_20080124a.shtml](http://www.reason.org/commentaries/snell_20080124a.shtml)

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## Harassment Claim Without Information

A student accusation of harassment led to Brandeis University claiming a professor violated the university's nondiscrimination policy and informed him of the sanctions to be imposed. According to the professor, Brandeis refuses to inform him or his lawyers what the accusation claimed he said and/or did.

<http://www.insidehighered.com/layout/set/print/news/2008/01/24/brandeis>

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## Community Colleges Need Funds

A report, commissioned by the nonprofit College Board, "argues that higher education's heavy lifters, community colleges, need both more money and better results".

[http://www.boston.com/news/education/higher/articles/2008/01/31/community\\_colleges\\_need\\_funds\\_study\\_says?mode=PF](http://www.boston.com/news/education/higher/articles/2008/01/31/community_colleges_need_funds_study_says?mode=PF)

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## Two Views Of Globalization

"Connections, Collaborations and Competition" discusses how higher education in developing nations should "replicate the diversity of the American higher education system", while a February 26th audio conference entitled "Global Shifts in HE – Why Bologna Matters" is scheduled to present an outline of how European higher education will be the dominant global model within a decade.

<http://www.insidehighered.com/layout/set/print/news/2008/01/25/connected>

<http://events.webeventservices.com/insidehighered/2008/0226/>

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## Attack on Tenure

A federal district court ruled against a long-tenured professor at the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, denying him the right to reinstatement if he wins his suit against the University. If upheld, the lower court's ruling will have chilling ramifications for tenure.

<http://www.insidehighered.com/layout/set/print/news/2008/01/29/tenure>

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## The Increasing HE Gap

Endowments of the wealthiest colleges are increasing even more the divide between the higher education haves and have-nots. From financial aid to salaries, "America's already stratified system of higher education is creating all sorts of tensions as the less wealthy

colleges try to compete”.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/04/education/04endowment.html?ex=1202792400&en=0f00c4418be1941a&ei=5070&emc=eta1>

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## NCHE Membership Renewal

Have you renewed your NCHE membership? In November 2007 and again in January you should have received your 2008 NCHE membership renewal invoice. If you have not yet renewed your membership you can return the invoice to Bill Ricketts, Membership Chair. You can also renew Individual membership at the NCHE RAM in Washington D.C., held Thursday night and Friday morning prior to the NEA/AFT Higher Education Conference. Individual and organizational voting credentials are only available to members who have paid their dues. Please return your NCHE membership today. We look forward to your continued support and seeing you in Washington D.C.

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## 2008 NEA/AFT Higher Education Conference

The 2008 Higher Education Conference, a joint NEA / AFT conference, will be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C., March 28-30, with pre-conference events March 26-28. This year's theme is *Building Alliances for Higher Education and the Public Good*. Friday's Keynote Speaker will be John Podesta, president of the Center for American Progress. Professor Charles Ogletree, the Harvard Law School Jesse Climenko Professor of Law and Vice Dean for the Clinical Programs will be Saturday's luncheon speaker. The following are scheduled conference-related activities:

TH, March 27	NEA Conference Leadership Day
TH-FRI, March 27-28	NCHE RAM – TH 7-10pm / FRI 8-11:30am
FRI, March 28	NCHE Elections and NEA Candidate Endorsements
FRI-SUN, March 28-30	NEA/AFT HE Conference

Registration and details on the conference are available online at: <http://www2.nea.org/he/conf.html>

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## Thought And Action Review Panel

Three three-year positions are open on the *Thought & Action* Review Panel. Criteria for selection include experience with or knowledge of the editorial process, knowledge of or experience with NEA or its local affiliates, interest in issues facing higher education, NEA members and their unions. More details can be obtained by contacting Con Lehane at [clehane@nea.org](mailto:clehane@nea.org) or calling 202-822-7214. Manuscript guidelines for *Thought & Action* are

available at <http://www2.nea.org/he/taguid.html>.

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## NCSCBHEP Conference At Hunter College

The 35th National Conference of the National Center for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher Education and the Professions will be held April 6 – 8, 2008 at Hunter College in New York City. The preliminary program can be found at [www.hunter.cuny.edu/ncscbhep](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/ncscbhep).

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