

News in Brief

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Carson to introduce bill targeting textbook costs

Publishers and universities will be required to disclose their hidden textbook costs if Rep. Julia Carson (D-IN) has her way. Carson is expected to table a bill shortly that will create “an open discourse on the costs of higher education and eventually ensure that students will be able to access affordable study materials.” The escalating costs of textbooks are making acquiring a college education difficult for many students, says a report published by the Government Accountability Office. The average price students at four-year institutions have to pay for their textbooks—approximately \$898—is calculated to be equal to almost 27% of their tuition costs. Rep. Carson said the problem intensifies at two-year institutions, where the average cost of textbooks equals almost 72% of students’ total tuition costs.

Stanford develops International Outreach Program

A new International Outreach Program (IOP) at Stanford University headed by Reinhold Steinbeck is reinventing methods for helping students learn. In a joint effort by Stanford University and several African and Latin American universities, researchers are looking for new ways to prepare “students for work in the borderless world of the future.” The IOP, which is based at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI), is supporting the pilot project under the guidance of political science professor Coit Blacker. Professor Blacker said the project aims at “expanding Stanford’s outreach efforts into other regions with new interdisciplinary content and innovative approaches to learning and teaching.”

Booher new scholarship director at Indiana University

Sarah Booher has been chosen to head the Office of Scholarships for Indiana University’s Bloomington campus. The new Office of Scholarships will fall under the administrative purview of the university’s enrollment management and will serve as a repository of information for IU academic scholarship initiatives available to high school students with strong academic backgrounds. Roger Thompson, IU’s vice provost for enrollment management, stated that Booher’s passion for helping students achieve their goals as well as her “strong understanding of high school students [and] their families” make her the right candidate for the leadership role.