



REIMAGINING THE HIGHER EDUCATION LANDSCAPE

INSTITUTE FOR THE FUTURE

Higher education worldwide is entering a period of creative disruption. A combination of forces—unsustainable funding mechanisms, the availability of numerous digital content delivery platforms, discoveries in neuroscience, new analytic tools, and intensifying international competition—are converging to severely challenge existing higher education organizational models. Indeed, higher education seems poised to experience the same individual disruptions facing journalism, manufacturing and finance—all at once. At the same time, unconstrained by legacy assumptions and costs, new educational “superstructs”—alternative platforms and ventures—are springing up virtually every day. Some superstructs complement existing structures, but many are draining value out of them, thus speeding up their demise.

As these signals of disruption emerge, IFTF is expanding on its education research to engage a diverse set of players in the new educational ecology to reimagine the future of higher education. IFTF research will unpack the complex forces behind the disruptive changes facing education to put forth plausible, internally consistent visions of the future. The goal of the project is to map key drivers re-shaping education, create future scenarios for higher education, and deliver actionable insights that will help participating organizations better prepare for the future.

Our research and forecasting networks can help your organization to:

- › **ANTICIPATE OPPORTUNITIES** for new products and service offerings
- › **EXPAND YOUR NETWORK** by interacting with global thought leaders, innovators, and IFTF researchers
- › **THINK BROADLY** to gain an “outside-in” perspective on long-term forces and trends shaping the future
- › **GAIN AGILE POSITIONING** by questioning your assumptions and systematically considering alternative futures
- › **REDUCE UNCERTAINTY** and navigate risks by focusing on what’s most important in the new education landscape
- › **JUMP-START STRATEGIC THINKING** by immersing you in future possibilities and identifying flexible long-term actions



2013 DELIVERABLES

- › **THE FUTURE OF LEARNING GRAPHIC MAP** charting the key emerging forces reshaping the higher education and learning space. This stand-alone visual tool, intuitive and easy-to-use, will serve as a compass to help identify new higher education solutions and innovations over the next five to ten years.
- › **STRATEGIC TOOLKIT** with templates that can be used within universities to inform the decision-making process on issues raised by this content. These tools will help universities communicate the most relevant foresights to a wider audience and within internal strategic visions.
- › **HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT** based on the success of our previous “Redesigning Higher Education” workshop, where participants will share innovative approaches and projects, and engage in a Foresight to Insight to Action (FIA) exercise to convert future visions into actionable strategies for their endeavors. The summit is tentatively planned for March 2013.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

The Future of Learning project is an annual cost shared research effort. Each member organization pays \$25,000 per year. Learn more about the Institute for the Future at www.iftf.org, or contact: **Sean Ness (650-233-9585 or sness@iftf.org)** for details on project membership.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR THE FUTURE

IFTF is an independent nonprofit research group. We work with a broad range of organizations to help them make better, more informed decisions about the future by providing the foresight to create insights that lead to action. We bring a combination of tools, methodologies, and a deep understanding of emerging trends and discontinuities to our work with companies, foundations, and government agencies.

IFTF is based in California’s Silicon Valley, in a community at the crossroads of technological innovation, social experimentation, and global interchange. Founded in 1968 by a group of former RAND Corporation researchers with a grant from the Ford Foundation to take leading-edge research methodologies into the public and business sectors, IFTF is committed to building a better future with more systematic, rigorous, and thoughtful consideration of emergent possibilities.

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