



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

February 12, 2014

The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.

— Alvin Toffler

Continuing the Conversation: Last week, I wrote about the power of words to hurt and to heal and heard from many of you on both sides of the issue: those who thought actions need to replace words, and those who felt I was supporting limits on freedom of speech. I believe that as members of this campus, it is critical that we engage in a civil conversation around such difficult issues. That process started last Thursday as part of the Civility Speaker Series, when a panel was convened to discuss the use of the “N” word in contemporary society. That event was sponsored by African American Student Services, Civil Campus Council, and the Dean of Students Office. The conversation continues on the [blog](#).

Less is More: At a time when we are asked to do more, it may be relevant to pay attention to what is going on in some industries where the trend is to focus on doing better at making fewer things. An example of such process is provided by the “software maker 37signals that has decided to refocus the entire company on a single core product. 37signals has developed a dozen different products and services since its founding in 1999. They will now be a ‘one product company’ focused on Basecamp, its popular project management software.” At the University, we keep trying to do more: more programs, majors, new initiatives, and ever bigger buildings and mission. As we plan ahead, it may be more appropriate to ask: What are we doing that we should stop doing? What aren’t we doing that we should be doing?

Access, Affordability, and Success: The federal government is proposing a new way of rating colleges. The rating will focus on the [Iron Triangle](#) of Access, Cost, and Quality. A [recent report](#) asks if there are colleges hitting high marks on all three sides? How many colleges might be in trouble under a new ratings scheme? And how are students distributed across the different levels of performance? It turns out that few, if any, United States colleges are able to perform well on all three measures.

The Triple Package: A recent book tries to explain why some groups succeed in the United States. The authors of a [recent article](#) in *The New York Times* propose “that for all their diversity, the strikingly successful groups in America today share three traits that, together, propel success. The first is a superiority complex — a deep-seated belief in their exceptionality. The second appears to be the opposite — insecurity, a feeling that you or what you’ve done is not good enough. The third is impulse control.” The impulse control, or delayed gratification (or lack thereof) argument is one that [keeps appearing](#) while attempting to explain our success or failure to address societal problems.

Campus Visits Scheduled for Candidates for the Dean of the Anderson School of Management: I have invited three finalists to visit campus for the dean of the Anderson School of Management position; they will be visiting February 20-March 4. The candidates are: **Robert Del Campo**, Associate Dean and Professor, Anderson School of Management, University of New Mexico; **Geralyn Franklin**, Interim Dean and Professor, Nelson Rusche College of Business, Stephen F. Austin State University; and **James Lumpkin**, Dean and Chase Bank Professor, College of Business, Louisiana Tech University. Short biographies of each candidate, their CVs, and times and locations of the open forums can be found [here](#).

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