National Benchmarking of 200+ Institutional Responses to COVID-19
Rapid National Snapshot Of COVID-19 & Higher Education Response

How are Colleges & Universities Responding to COVID-19?

Purposive National Sample of 218 Institutions Reviewed

2 Data Sources
• IPEDS data
• Publicly available data via the web

3-Person data science & coding team

7 key questions:
1. Where are the known HE cases of COVID-19?
2. Are classes online?
3. Are dorms open?
4. Are employees mandatory working from home?
5. Are employees offered a COVID-19 emergency leave benefit?
6. Are classes being taught pass fail?
7. Is commencement cancelled?
National Snapshot Overview of Institutions

- Private – 27% (n=56)
- Public – 65% (n=138)
- Community Colleges – 8% (n=16)
Most, if not all, institutions have a dedicated coronavirus website.

Information about commencement was usually found separately.

Most COVID-19 pages were linked to the university health pages and provided information about supporting mental health.

Very few institutions had a specialist disaster or emergency committee leading; information tended to come from the provost or equivalent.

Exception: UCSF had a Global Disaster Assistance Committee leading on efforts.

Very few links to diversity and inclusion bias reporting or statements.

Exceptions in the case studies below: Delaware and Yale.

It was not always easy to find whether a member of the community had been infected.

Very tricky finding staff information; focus on students.

Few resources/information aimed at broader community/family.

E.g., worried parents, greater community surrounding campus.
20% of Institutions Reported a COVID-19 Positive in Their Community (n=42)
We could confirm 42 Institutions that confirmed COVID-19 cases

As of March 20, 2020
COVID-19 Strategic Response by Institutional Size

- **All Classes Online**
  - Size (1000 - 4999): 92%
  - Size (5000 - 9999): 95%
  - Size (10000 - 19999): 98%
  - Size (20000+): 100%

- **Commencement Postponed**
  - Size (1000 - 4999): 21%
  - Size (5000 - 9999): 22%
  - Size (10000 - 19999): 21%
  - Size (20000+): 23%

- **Commencement Cancelled**
  - Size (1000 - 4999): 13%
  - Size (5000 - 9999): 11%
  - Size (10000 - 19999): 13%
  - Size (20000+): 23%

- **Mandatory Remote General Employees**
  - Size (1000 - 4999): 38%
  - Size (5000 - 9999): 54%
  - Size (10000 - 19999): 62%
  - Size (20000+): 64%

- **No Residential Courses Will Be Offered Through Spring Semester**
  - Size (1000 - 4999): 62%
  - Size (5000 - 9999): 70%
  - Size (10000 - 19999): 76%
  - Size (20000+): 90%

- **Pass/Fail Implemented**
  - Size (1000 - 4999): 10%
  - Size (5000 - 9999): 11%
  - Size (10000 - 19999): 11%
  - Size (20000+): 17%

- **Pass/Fail Petitioned by Students**
  - Size (1000 - 4999): 3%
  - Size (5000 - 9999): 5%
  - Size (10000 - 19999): 9%
  - Size (20000+): 17%

- **Grade Policy Relaxation**
  - Size (1000 - 4999): 8%
  - Size (5000 - 9999): 5%
  - Size (10000 - 19999): 7%
  - Size (20000+): 10%
Dr. Damon A. Williams
Center for Strategic Diversity Leadership & Social Innovation

@dawphd /damonawilliams /damon.williams.5492 DamonAWilliams1@me.com

DrDamonAWilliams.com