

The Teagle Foundation

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



FROM THE CHAIR · John S. Chalsty

This has been a good year for the Teagle Foundation, both financially and programmatically, and we have much good news to report. We work on many fronts and in many places, but one theme runs through all of our work: concern for students and their learning. That has been a focus of the Foundation throughout the more than sixty years of its operation and it continues now, as we help young people from disadvantaged neighborhoods in New York City get ready to succeed in college, as we carry forward Mr. Teagle's commitment to providing scholarships for the employees and their children in the corporation he served for many years, and as we support innovative programs designed to help American colleges and universities do the best possible job of educating their students.

Go to www.teaglefoundation.org/about/ar07/intro.aspx for the complete text.

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LESSONS FROM A TEAGLE GRANTEE

Hope College in Holland, Michigan, has long suspected that its students are less academically engaged and participate less vigorously in the curriculum than it would like. The College used the NSSE to compare its students' self-reporting of the rigor of their academic experience with their peer institutions. The results were not uniformly happy ones, but Hope--to its great credit--decided to take action.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

PRESIDENT'S ESSAY · W. Robert Connor

Advancing Student Learning: What we are learning at the Teagle Foundation

There's good news for American undergraduate students. American higher education is changing. It's changing fast and (by and large) it's changing in the right direction. That, at least, is what we are seeing at the Teagle Foundation.



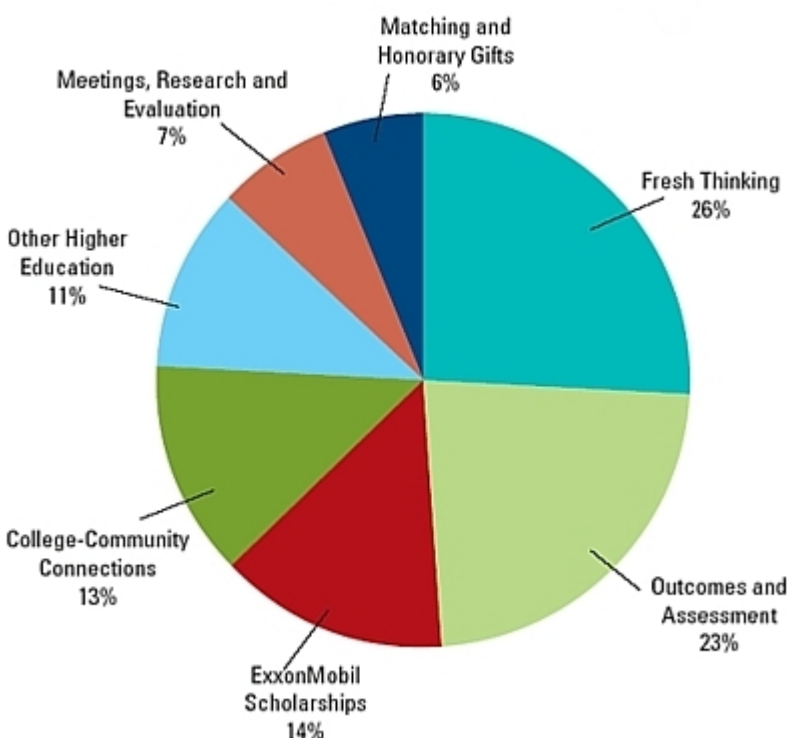
Such optimism may not be obvious to all, so let me explain. To many people outside the enterprise American higher education looks, I suspect, like a great ocean liner, vast and powerful, with multiple decks and accommodations for a broad clientele, excellent recreational facilities, dining options for every dietary preference, excellent services of every conceivable type, state of the art equipment, and talented and steadily growing support staffs. It is unquestionably the finest anywhere, something everyone else envies. But some of our fellow citizens have been wondering whether it is on course, indeed, whether it knows where it is heading, and whether it is too cumbersome to change course. Is it pricing itself out of its market? Has it become obsolete, destined to end up high and dry somewhere in an educational desert?

Go to www.teaglefoundation.org/about/ar07/ar2007essay.aspx for the complete text.

SIX INFERENCES ABOUT IMPROVING STUDENT LEARNING:

1. Clear, ambitious educational goals are the starting point.
2. Systematic collection and *use* of evidence works.
3. Transparency is a legitimate demand.
4. Cross institutional comparisons can help.
5. Autonomy is a condition for creativity.
6. Evidence enables systematic improvement.

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Click [here](#) to see the Foundation's full financial report.

Resources that can help improve student learning on your campus can be found on our website at www.teaglefoundation.org.