Higher education losing ground in public opinion

Dr. Aldemaro Romero Jr. Letters from Academia

in order to change public perceptions? To begin with, we need to radically change the ways in which we communicate with the general public. Until recently, the public has been inundated with negative news stories about the increasing costs of higher education, the decline in enrollment, and the shrinking of public funding for higher education institutions. Over the last few years, many have written off universities as places that are irrelevant to today's world.

In his online biography, Mayor recaps the influences from that period of his life. “I remember Indian musicians coming to our house on occasion to make music together in the family kitchen with dad’s dad, drummers and shakers, and sing their Tamil Carols. It was a sacred and beautiful music.”

Mayor’s musical journey is quite interesting as outlined in his online biography. He himself was ‘nurtured’ in the music by his grandfather, a Professor of Tamil at the University of Madras. He was inspired by his grandfather’s musicality, and his parents, who were both trained in the rich musical traditions of Tamil Nadu.

Mayor’s parents, Brother, Sisters, and many others contributed to his musical education. He credits his parents for nurturing his love for music, and for encouraging him to explore the rich musical traditions of the Tamil Nadu.

Mayor’s career in music has been quite successful, and he has performed with many accomplished musicians. His album, “Scheiner: String Quartets and Piano Trios,” released in 2005, was critically acclaimed, and it is a testament to his talent as a composer and performer.

Mayor has also been involved in many philanthropic efforts, and his music has been used to raise funds for a variety of causes. He has performed in benefit concerts for the United Nations, and his music has been featured in fundraising events for a number of organizations.

Mayor’s dedication to his music and his philanthropic efforts are examples of his commitment to the arts and to education. His biography, “Letters from Academia,” is a testament to his passion for music and his commitment to the arts.

For the Intelligencer

Top chefs

Edwardsville High School’s Culinary Arts and Foods & Nutrition students placed first in the inaugural Madison County Public Chef Competition on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at Southwestern Illinois College in Granite City. There were 11 area high schools that competed to test their skills at preparing a four-course meal for professional chefs and food experts.

The competition was similar to a “Chopped” competition as seen on television where they were given specific ingredients they had to use and one secret ingredient they had to incorporate in their dish. All teams were required to pass a sanitation test, and had to prepare and present to the judges an appetizer tray, a salad plate, an entrée plate and a dessert plate in a specified amount of time. Students could only use their electronic devices to research ingredients for 15 minutes. Then they had to use their culinary skills for the remainder of the competition. Chefs could help their team cook, but their input was limited to three, 10-minute conferences. The team placed first overall in the competition and first place in the appetizer division. Elizabeth Gaumer was named as the team MVP. Pictured in front are, from left: Emily Peel, Madeline Misukonis, Laura Forsyth, and Elizabeth Gaumer. In back are Bre Athenos, Alexis Jacobs, Tyler Barham, and Courtney Jackson.

Regional

Until recently, higher education held a high standing in public opinion polls despite many public image challenges. According to a 2015 poll, 77 percent of the general public thought that higher education was “very important,” and 25 percent thought it was “somewhat important.” That same survey found that 70 percent of respondents had positive attitudes toward higher education. Yet, in recent years, there has been a decline in public support for higher education.

Another area in which many politicians have succeeded in influencing public opinion is by attacking colleges and universities for being “too liberal” and “being too academically oriented.” Thus, many parents think that instead of educating their kids with the careful and critical thinking skills that universities instill, they will just end up indoctrinated into leftist ideologies.

One line of attack against colleges and universities has been what some have labeled as “academic bloating.” The allowance of excessive administrative staff to the detriment of their academic mission. Although in a few cases, the fact of the matter is that because of an increase in federal and state regulations, many educational institutions of higher education have had to hire more administrators to comply with those regulations. In a report published last year, direc- tors of presidents of colleges and universities complained to the federal government about the cost of complying with their regulations, which could account for as much as 15 percent of their budget. When it comes to state regulations, the presi- dents of public institutions have complained in more than 20 cases about the fact that the vast majority of a university budget goes toward personnel, the emphasis has to be on the quality of instruction and how it changes the lives of students.

Dr. Aldemaro Romero Jr. is a writer and college professor with leadership experience in higher edu- cation. He has been featured in the New College Times, and has also written for the Education Next. For more, visit http://www.aromerojr.net

City

The Finance Committee recommended the approval of the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association (IMLRMA) for professional risk management services for the 2017-2018 period in the amount of $314,915.

Alderman J. Raynor said the municipal will benefit the city, just as it has in years past.

Losses and claims are lower than anticipated, you may realize an overall savings. However, if losses and claims are higher than anticipated, you may need to add to your budget at the end of the year. There’s always a chance it might not, but it’s been good for our business,” Raynor said.

In the event that expenses are higher, Patton said, “We have built up a little cushion for ourselves, but if things were to go south, that’s how the Council has put it forth to say that we have the kinds of claims that we can make. It’s always a concern.”

The motion carried and all were in favor.

Mayor’s unique sound is a result of working with some of the best musicians in the world. He credits his success to the talented musicians who have been part of his band over the years, and to his own dedication to the art of music making.

Mayor’s music has been included in many popular films, including “The Pursuit of Happyness,” “The Hangover,” and “The Hangover Part II.” He has also performed with some of the biggest names in the music industry, including James Taylor, Don Henley, Ringo Starr and others.

Mayor’s music is an amazing gift, singer and songwriter, and he is still a versatile musician. In a recent interview, he talked about his upcoming tour, which will take him to all 50 states and all over the world. He is looking forward to performing with his band and bringing his music to new audiences.

Mayor is a true musical prodigy, and his music has touched the lives of millions of people around the world. His biography, “Letters from Academia,” is a testament to his musical talent and his commitment to the art of music making.

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