Regional
College enrollments continue national decline

If there is a statistic that all college administrators look at every year it is enrollment, the trend and butter of higher education for multiple reasons. First, directly impacts financial well-being of the financial resources people -- depend upon students enrolling in order to maintain the fine line of their existence. Some public institutions have their state aid tied to the number of students they enroll. Third, the attractiveness of an institution of higher education is partly based on enrollment numbers. No wonder everybody looks at those numbers every year.

Enrollment numbers for the spring semester of 2017 have just been released, and they are not good news in most cases. The National Student Clearinghouse, which tracks 97 percent of students at federal-aid eligible institutions, found an overall national decline of 1.5 percent for this spring semester compared to a year ago. That means 272,202 fewer students were enrolled nationwide.

And this is not an isolated blip. The year when this had the largest enrollment in degree-granting institutions of higher education was 2010 when the total enrollment was 20,381,483. Today the number is 19,017,943, a reduction of nearly 16 percent in seven years. Last year the decline was 1.3 percent and year before that 1.9 percent. A closer look at the whole picture includes the following.

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Another factor could be the relentless bad press that colleges have just been released, and they are not good news that the for-profit sector of higher education is worse. When it comes to geography, the state with the largest growth was New Hampshire, with a 16.2 percent increase, and the largest decline was New Mexico, with a 4.8 percent decrease.

Students to go back to school – is pushing fewer of them to consider as having potential effects on decreased enrollment between 1 and 4 percent. In the past these declines have been compensated by a higher recruitment of international students, but the jury is still out on whether national enrollmentCommittee, which allots a spot on both the Finance Committee and the Public

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Dr. Aldemaro Romero Jr. Letters from Academia

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