

THE EDUCATOR



February, 2018

A BIG YEAR FOR HIGHER ED

Last year marked a number of big changes in higher education, as many universities joined forces through mergers and acquisitions. In the fall we learned that Purdue acquired Kaplan, Inc., combining a high-reputation college with a technology-centered institution. In addition, Strayer University and Capella University announced a merger that combines two large for-profit colleges. And lastly, EDMC, owner of three universities, was purchased by the Dream Center Education Holdings with plans to convert the universities to non-profit institutions.

ONLINE EDUCATION CONTINUES TO FLOURISH WITH NON PROFIT UNIVERSITIES

Over the years, we have seen an increase in the number of non-profit institutions targeting adult learners and, as a result, many have enhanced their programs, making them more accessible and more flexible. While it's not new for non-profit universities to be offering online programs, it is worth noting the success they're having in doing so. Schools like SNHU, Arizona State, WGU, and Purdue are examples of large universities that are meeting the needs of adult learners.

As you can see, higher education is constantly changing and EdAssist® strives to stay on top of the fast-paced movement in order to be a thought leader in the space and a resource to our clients.

This issue of *The Educator* offers a comprehensive list of new partner schools and programs as well as information to help you plan for 2018 – including our upcoming [webinar](#), [Solutions at Work Live 2018](#), and more!



NEW EDUCATION NETWORK PARTNERS ADDED IN 2017

EdAssist continues to grow the Education Network, offering employees more choices as they seek to take advantage of the unique benefits and discounts. Below is a list of the schools added to the Education Network in 2017, with links to their various program benefits:

[Barry University](#)

[Franklin University](#)

[Loyola University of Chicago](#)

[Mercer University](#)

[Molloy College](#)

[New Jersey Institute of Technology](#)

[Northwood University](#)

[Ohio University – School of Business](#)

[Rider University](#)

[Saint Peter's University](#)

[Temple University – College of Public Health](#)

[Temple University – College of Engineering](#)

[University of Central Missouri – Lee's Summit](#)

[University of La Verne](#)

[University of St. Francis \(IL\)](#)

[University of the Rockies](#)

[University of Southern California - School of Social Work](#)

[Widener University](#)

[Worcester Polytechnic Institute](#)

*website links are available once the school is live with EdAssist

NEW – Increased discounts with Network schools

- [ASU Online](#): added a 10% tuition discount to the already existing waived application fee
- [University of Redlands](#): increase from 10% to 15% tuition discount
- [Kaplan University](#): increase from 10% to 17% tuition discount
- [University of Phoenix](#): new tuition pricing
- [Florida Institute of Technology \(Florida Tech\)](#): increase from 5% to 10% tuition discount

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHTS

A Competency-Based, Job-Relevant Training Solution for your Company's Emerging Leaders



The Capella Applied Leadership Series is an online leadership development program specifically geared toward readying employees who are moving into a leadership role for the first time. Focusing on key leadership competencies, this program is scalable and can be tailored to support your organization's goals, strategic priorities and corporate culture.

This program blends online and face-to-face learning featuring actual real-life work situations. Following the proven 70-20-10 model, the Capella Applied Leadership Series utilizes a unique "train-the-trainer" strategy where your own facilitator assists in tailoring the program to your organization's specific needs. To learn more, visit capellaleadership.com.

WGU Provides Accredited Education for Busy Adults



Western Governors University (WGU) develops education partnerships with industry-leading organizations across the nation. As a nonprofit, online university, WGU is designed to expand access to higher education and meet the education needs of busy adult learners. These educational partnerships allow corporations to leverage WGU's award-winning degree programs and proven competency-based model to foster both personal and professional growth for their employees.

As part of these partnerships, WGU extends special benefits to corporate partner employees and affiliates. Benefits can include tuition discounts and scholarship opportunities. For more information, please message us at partnerships@wgu.edu.

New UMUC Programs and Benefits for EdAssist Client-Employees!



EdAssist client-employees, spouses, and legal dependents can now take advantage of a \$50 application fee waiver when they submit an application for admission to UMUC and verify employment. We are also offering a brand new Master's in Cloud Computing Architecture degree and a Bachelor's in Homeland Security degree.

To learn more, please visit www.umuc.edu/edassist.

New Degrees for a New You in the New Year



Ashford University has added new bachelor's and master's degree programs in some of today's most in-demand fields, including Human Resources, Information Technology, Public Health, Marketing, and Education. Start the New Year with new skills, knowledge, and professional credentials.

You can also enjoy savings on tuition and other associated fees when you enroll at Ashford. There's never been a better time to start working toward your new degree and enjoying the life-changing benefits of education.

Get started today at success.ashford.edu/edassist.

A Better You is Here – Walden Supports You in 2018



To kick off the new year, employees of EdAssist partners are invited to attend an on-demand webinar series designed to help promote wellness and to explore, discover, and grow as professionals:

- **Digital Detox** with *Dr. Frederica Hendricks-Noble*
Looking up from our cell phones is crucial to connecting with others, and this session will help you put healthy parameters around a very modern workplace problem.
- **Avoiding Burnout** with *Dr. Shana Garrett*
Examining the biological, psychological, and motivational components that contribute to being burned out.
- **Strategies for Conflict Management** with *Dr. Barbara Bailey*
Find out how you can turn workplace turmoil into the foundation for organizational health.

To learn more about this [webinar series](#) or [Walden University](#), please visit waldenu.edu/edassist.

Inspiring INNOVATION

As changing demographics and evolving technology impact businesses, human resources is at the heart of bringing innovation to employees and employers alike.

Join your HR, Benefits, and Leadership & Development colleagues to discuss how HR can drive innovation for employers of choice.



JOIN US IN **PASADENA** FOR OUR SIXTH ANNUAL **SOLUTIONS AT WORK** CONFERENCE

UPCOMING WEBINARS FOR YOUR EMPLOYEES

Feb 21, 12:00 PM – 1:00PM EST

Make the Most of Transfer Credits and Prior Learning- How to turn Work Experience and Other Certifications into College Credit

This webinar will discuss current strategies to assist students with accelerating their degrees through the use of their prior experiences. Discussions will include current trends in prior learning assessment in the industry as well as how these are specifically applied to undergraduate students at Walden University through the use of prior learning portfolios, standardized exams, professional certificates, etc. The webinar will also touch on academic agreements with non-academic entities to help increase student transfer of credit. We share expert advice from our advisors and university partners on topics important to adult learners. Register for upcoming webinars today!

[Register HERE](#)

Funding Your Education Beyond Tuition Assistance: Scholarships

Students turn to scholarships to offset costs outside of their tuition assistance, but are often overwhelmed by the process. Others think awards don't apply to adult learners when, in fact, they haven't been looking in the right places. This recorded webinar will provide you with tools and resources to get started and will teach you:

- Where to look for scholarships
- How to start your search and refine search to narrow down results
- The impact of outside assistance resources on tuition assistance

[View the webinar recording HERE](#)

Standing at the Starting Line – Understanding Your Educational Options

Before selecting a school, degree, or program, do you know all the right questions to ask? Geared towards those thinking about going back to school, this session will provide a practical guide to help you stand confidently at the starting line. Learn about exciting options such as competency-based learning, credit by examination and traditional versus accelerated learning formats as well as prior learning assessments and online learning. Basics such as accreditation guidelines, what to consider before enrolling, and tips to create an academic timeline for yourself will also be covered.

[View the webinar recording HERE](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Blogs:

[Why Education Assistance is Today's Must-Have Benefit](#)

[How To Make Your Tuition Program Cost Less In 2018](#)

[Tuition Assistance And Dependent Care Benefits Survive Tax Reform](#)

Webinar Resources:

[Legislative Update: Student Loan Repayment Assistance](#)

Research Studies:

[The Lasting Impact of Tuition Assistance – 2017](#)

UPCOMING WEBINAR FOR YOU

Grow your Own: Using education to solve 2018's talent challenge

It's the tightest labor market for years, with the jobless rate at a 17-year low. However, most companies persist in primarily looking outside the organization for talent, despite plentiful data showing that internal transfers outperform external hires in many key performance metrics. In this webinar you'll hear about companies which are leading the way in avoiding this missed opportunity and take away practical ideas to apply in your own organization.

Register for this webinar to learn:

1. Key metrics supporting the business case for developing and sourcing talent internally
2. New ideas and best practices in employee education such as rotational programs and internal talent marketplaces which will help fill vacancies with internal candidates
3. The key role that educational assistance can play in adding skills for employees, with greater usage of career pathways and innovative new education programs to motivate employees

[Register HERE](#)