Enrollment numbers can mean a lot to universities

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Administration

Most of the senior executive positions at higher education concern enrollment. For private institutions that is their brand-and-butter, unless they are one of those with gigantic endowments, where they need the money that comes from tuition and fees to operate. For public institutions, the revenue picture is becoming more similar because they are getting fewer states from their state and local revenues, and fees, a process that has been “the privatization of public higher education.”

The other reason why enrollment numbers matter is because of prestige. The more and better students an institution can enroll, the more it can claim a level of prestige. And if the numbers of applicants increase – because of the perceived prestige – institutions become more selective in admissions. This, in turn, increases retention and graduation rates. And those numbers are becoming more and more important – not just to schools but also to community colleges when they come to determine educational efficacities.

Last year enrollment statistics for U.S. institutions of higher education were released by the National Student Clearinghouse. This is a non-profit organization founded in 1993 that the higher education commu-

ity that provides student data related to enrollment and completion, and the news is not good. The number of freshmen entering higher education in 2016 was down 2.7 percent from the previous year, which is the fourth year in a row that freshmen numbers have declined. In 2015, the drop was 2.1 percent. In 2014, it was 1.7 percent, and in 2013, it was 2.3 percent.

One of the factors that likely contributed to the decline was an increase in the number of students who were taking online courses. The National Center for Education Statistics reports that 3.5 million students were enrolled in online courses in 2015, which is an increase of 113% from 2005.

Another factor is that students are taking longer to complete their degrees. The average length of time to complete a bachelor’s degree is 4.3 years, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. This is up from 3.9 years in 1996.

Finally, institutions of higher education need to become more savvy in trying to attract the only popu-

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Dr. Aldemaro Romero Jr. Letters from Academia

University of Chicago

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will take place at 1 p.m. on July 26, in the Edwards Conference Room at City Hall. All meetings are open to the public.

The Ordinance was passed on first reading at the last regular Council meeting.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m. on July 25 in the Gereaux Center Room at City Hall. All meetings are open to the public.

The kids race, pictured above, will once again be a highlight at TheBANK of Edwardsville Rotary Criterium Festival this year in downtown Edwardsville.

A new app, called “Rotary Bike Race,” will be available for anyone to participate in. The app allows users to track their progress during the race and see their final results.

The festival is expected to attract thousands of spectators and participants.

The festival is one of the largest and most popular events in the area, drawing hundreds of riders from all over the United States and beyond.

The festival includes a variety of races, including the kids race, the main race, and a charity race.

Morrison said the bike races are what make the Edwardsville Rotary Criterium on Facebook.

The hotel isn’t the one trying to be all things to all people. Morrison said the Rotary Club’s goals are to create signature experiences for people not just in the Metro East, and downtown area like this. The fact that they are affordable, that they are a place where people can come and enjoy," Morrison said. "They’re great for people who may have limited mobility or may have limited mobility or those under 18 years of age.

During the festival, the Edwardsville Rotary will be hosting a number of events, including a Kids Race, a Public Safety Committee meeting, and a Food Zone.

The Kids Race will take place on July 26 at 1 p.m. and will feature a 1-mile course.

The Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on July 26 at 1 p.m. and will feature a discussion on local safety issues.

The Food Zone will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature a variety of food options, including hot dogs, hamburgers, and pizza.

The Edwardsville Rotary will also be hosting a silent auction, a 5K race, and a car show during the festival.

The festival will also feature a variety of live music, including a performance by the Edwardsville High School Marching Band.

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