

## Kevin Reilly Prepared Remarks

Sunday Keynote Session

APLU Annual Meeting

Nov. 13, 2016

It's wonderful to be with so many friends and colleagues this afternoon. For those of you who don't know me, I'm Kevin Reilly, former President of the University of Wisconsin System.

When I became President, a senior Chancellor in the Wisconsin System cautioned: "Remember Kevin, no speech is too short." You will be pleased to know that even though I am now Emeritus, I have not forgotten.

I want to briefly bring to your attention a new national initiative focused on teaching.

It got started with a number of us mulling the still startling fact that 70-75% of undergraduate teaching across the country is now done by adjunct, contingent faculty. What do we know about adjuncts, and how can we better support this teaching force that is vital to the success of our students, and I'd argue, the future of our nation?

Peter McPherson and I serve on the Board of Advisors for a new organization founded to address these issues. It's called the Association of College and University Educators—ACUE for short. The new and exciting thing ACUE has done is develop an online certificate program in teaching skills for college and university faculty. The certificate is formally recognized by the American Council on Education.

Too often, we labor under what we know is the false assumption: if you have mastered a discipline deeply and broadly, you can by virtue of that mastery communicate it effectively to students! That mastery is a necessary—but not sufficient—condition for good teaching by all instructors, not just adjuncts.

There is a number of things I like about ACUE's program. It's scalable—it can reach faculty who will never sign up for professional development with your teaching center, no matter how wonderful it is. It focuses on what we know about best current teaching practices, based on the best current research.

We have paid too little attention to the connections between what goes on in our classrooms and whether our students are on course to earn their degree.

ACUE has a new white paper on this topic we are happy to share with you, and plans additional research on it. In an era when so many of us have increased graduation rates as a top priority, we should be

systematically helping faculty improve their craft, and thereby enlisting their enthusiastic involvement in the student success and completion agendas.

In the midst of all the questioning of the value of higher education, an innovative initiative like ACUE's demonstrates you really do care about the quality of undergraduate education.

Here's a short video that will give you a bit of a feel for the ACUE product. Jonathan Gyrko, the Founder and CEO of ACUE, and I will join you at the reception in a few minutes, and will be with you for the conference tomorrow, if you'd like to follow up. [Ask Jonathan to stand and be recognized.]

Thanks for listening. Here's the video. And we hope you enjoy the reception.