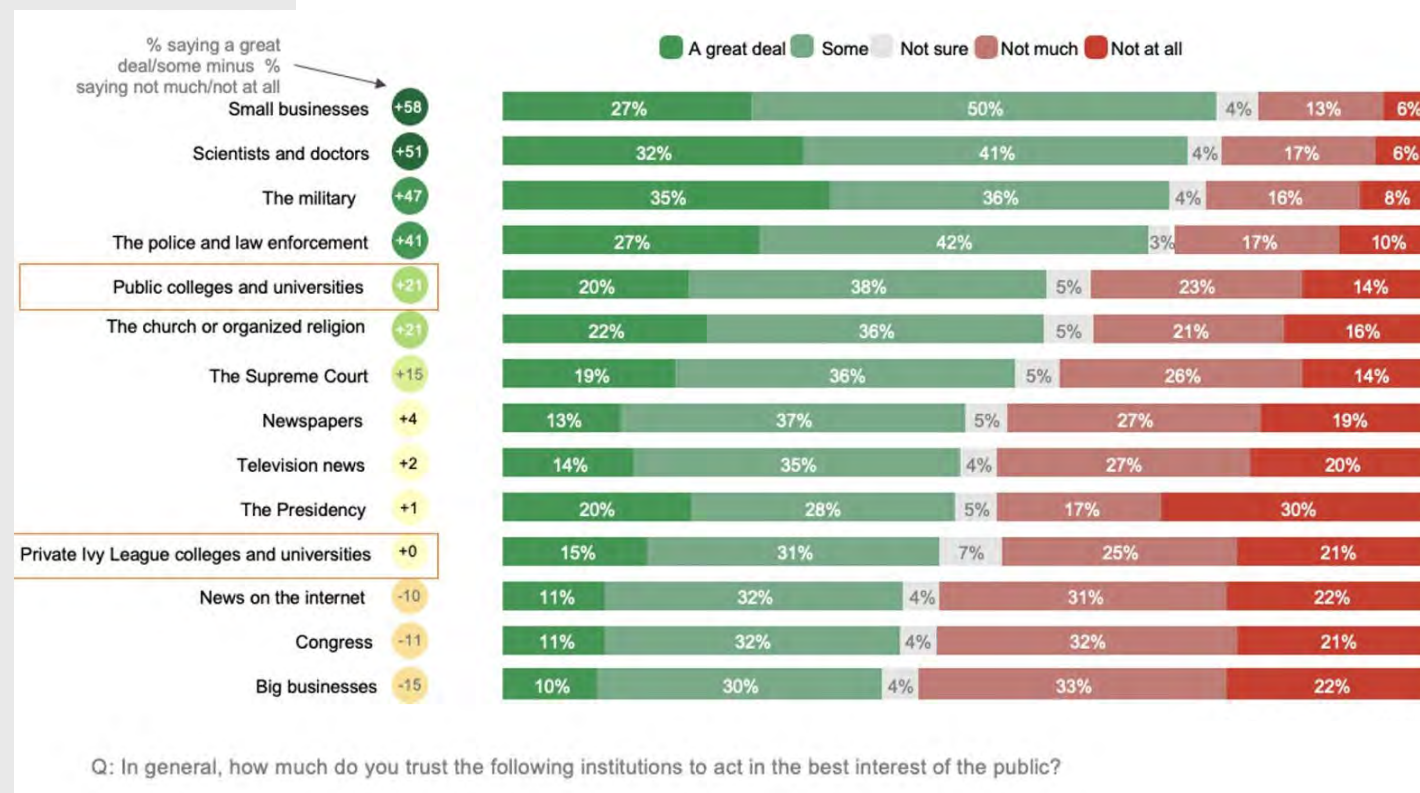


National Trends Influencing Community Colleges

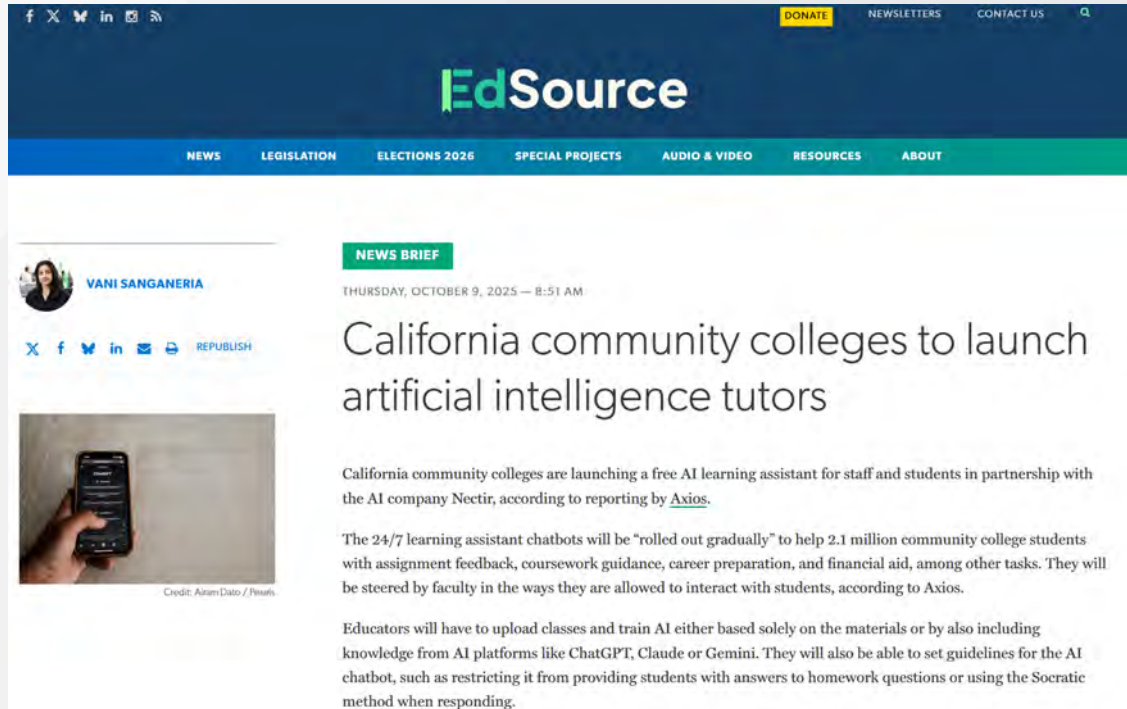
Dr. Matt Wetstein

Social Trends

- Growing pressure for higher education to demonstrate its value
- Demographic shifts are reshaping college enrollments
- Distrust of AI is reshaping the relationship between students & professors



Technology Trends



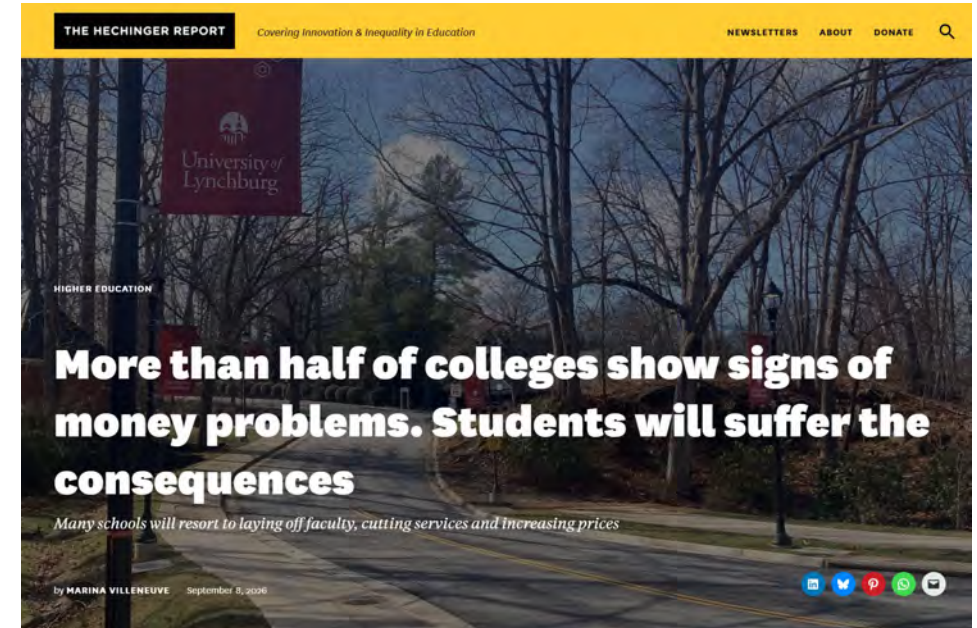
- Cybersecurity threats and ransomware attacks are a growing threat
- AI is reshaping teaching and learning strategies
- Chatbots and information analysis is changing delivery of student support

Source: [2026 Educause Horizon Report, Teaching & Learning Edition, EdSource](#), October 9, 2025

Economic Trends

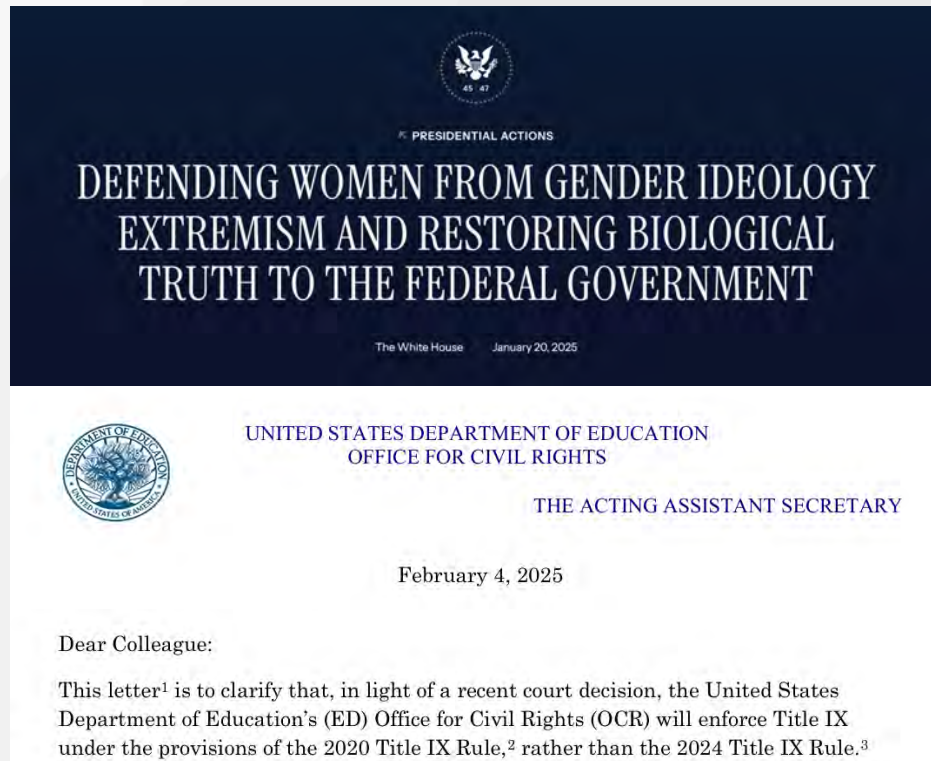
- Declining enrollment revenue & government funding threaten viability of colleges
- ROI is increasingly important for students & families

Source: [2026 Educause Horizon Report, Teaching & Learning Edition](#)
[The Hechinger Report](#), September 8, 2026



Political Trends

- Policy reforms challenging faculty autonomy (DEI)
- Policy volatility at the federal level
 - Executive orders
 - Policy changes in Dept. of Ed
 - Immigration crackdowns
 - Web accessibility guidelines



Environmental Trends

- Increasing commitment to sustainability practices
- Growing concern about big data's impact on the environment
- Growing demand for green skills in the workforce
 - 45% growth in wind & 22% growth in solar-tech jobs between 2022-2032

Source: [2026 Educause Horizon Report, Teaching & Learning Edition](#)
US Department of Labor, [Green Jobs Outlook](#), April 18, 2024



National Educational Trends Discussion Questions:

1. What matters most?

Which trends could have the greatest implications for CCSF over the next 3–5 years—and why?

2. What do they mean for CCSF?

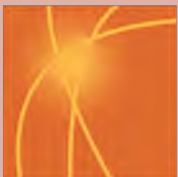
Where do these trends create significant *challenges, opportunities, or both* for our students, programs, workforce, partnerships, or institutional operations?

3. What should they cause us to consider?

Given these implications, what should CCSF consider *doing differently, prioritizing, or preparing for* in its next strategic plan?

Report out:

One key implication and one strategic consideration for CCSF



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