

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**DISTANCE EDUCATION PRESENTATION**  
**“TRANSFORMING LEARNING, EMPLOYABILITY, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP”**

**Action Requested:** Receive the presentation.

**Executive Summary:** Dr. Don Norris will address challenges faced by universities in deploying online learning. The real challenge is to use online learning to transform the business model for learning and competency building in a way that reduces costs, expands options, reduces time to completion, and enhances student success. This includes discovering new ways to enhance employability and entrepreneurship, turning graduates into job makers, not just job seekers.

Dr. Norris is a recognized thought leader, consultant, and author on the future of higher education. His books, published by the Society for College and University Planning, have guided thinking about the technology-enabled change in higher education – *Transforming Higher Education: A Vision for Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (1995), *Transforming e-Knowledge: A Revolution in Knowledge Sharing* (2003), and *A Guide to Planning for Change* (2008).

Dr. Norris’s current consulting work has focused on Reimagining Higher Education, Post Recession to improve student success and achieve financial sustainability. He is working with a range of international universities and employers on strategies for filling persistent talent gaps in innovation, entrepreneurship, and workforce competencies. He is also forging partnerships between universities in developed and developing nations to address these issues. Dr. Norris is currently serving as Chief Architect and Mentor for the *Public Forum on Action Analytics* and the blog, *Linking Analytics to Lifting out of Recession*.

Dr. Norris is President of Strategic Initiatives, Inc., which combines recognized thought leadership and developmental consulting services. Strategic Initiatives helps clients address two primary challenges – leading and navigating change; and crafting and executing strategies to achieve particular goals. Dr. Norris’ presentation has been supported by a grant from HCM Strategists, Inc.