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R e 3 F w n 2

**OREG 2026 Higher
ED Forecasts**

**How Higher Ed
Moves Forward
with Confidence**

**Conflict Resolution
Essential Skills**

**Where Students
Can Thrive in an
Automated World**

**Palentine's Day?
Because Love Isn't
Just Romantic**

Create Magic with Holiday Themes!



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February Month Long Themes



Olympic Medals for Art?!

Did you know that the Olympics once celebrated art alongside sports? From 1912 to 1948, medals were awarded for creative achievements in architecture, music, painting, sculpture, and literature. This was thanks to Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who envisioned the true Olympian as both athlete and artist. While these competitions no longer exist, the legacy lives on through cultural programs at the Games.

- American Heart Month
- Bike To Work Month
- Black History Month
- Creative Romance Month
- Great American Pie Month
- International Friendship Month
- Library Lovers Month
- National Arts Month
- National Cherry Month
- National Embroidery Month
- National Wedding Month
- Youth Leadership Month

February Holidays & Observances

Budget Friendly & Easy Events Themes



SUBSCRIBE

Check out these days and use your Imagination to Create Fun

Daily Themes & Fun Ways to Celebrate



February 1

Face and Body Art Day

Organize a Face and Body Art Day event! Encourage participants to explore different cultures while being respectful cultural appropriation. Conclude the event with a showcase where participants can display their creations. Consider hosting a mini parade or photo exhibition.

Daily Themes & Fun Ways to Celebrate



February 2 National Catchers Day

Gather your friends for a friendly game of baseball. If you're on a team, organize a special practice session focusing on the catcher's role. Make it fun by swapping roles to experience the challenges and skills required to be a great catcher.



February 3 The Day the Music Died

Join us as we commemorate "The Day the Music Died," a tribute to the unforgettable impact of rock 'n' roll legends. On this day, we remember their vibrant music and the lasting legacy they left behind. Invite friends over for a themed gathering. Encourage everyone to dress up in 1950s attire, like poodle skirts and leather jackets.



February 4 Women in Sports Day

Join or organize a local sports event that encourages female participation. This could be a fun run, a soccer match, or a basketball game. The goal is to create a supportive environment where girls and women feel empowered to showcase their athletic skills.



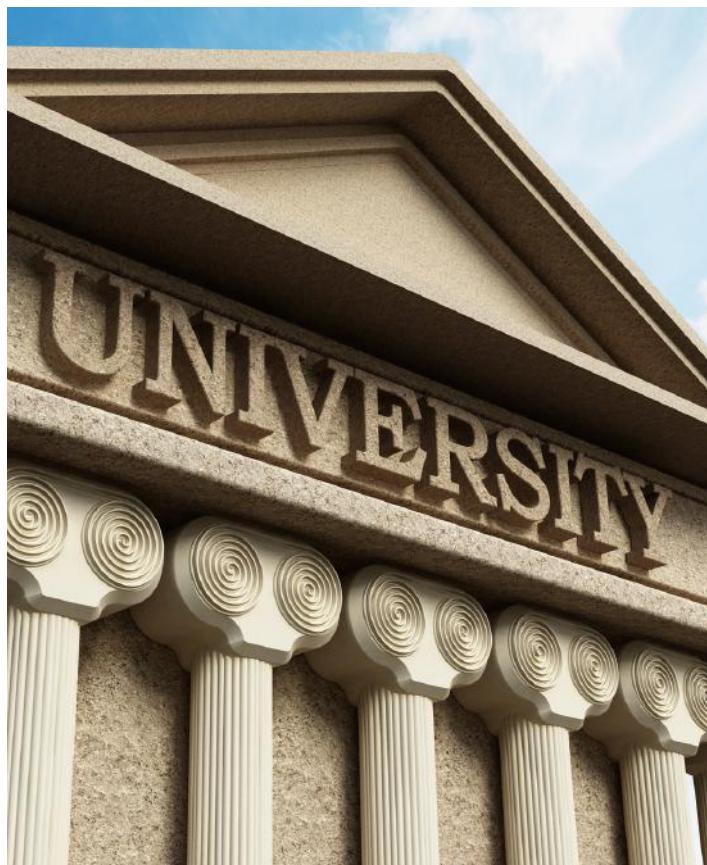
February 5 National Weatherman's Day

National Weatherman's Day is a day dedicated to honoring the men and women who diligently work to predict the weather. Many local news stations or universities offer tours of their weather stations or meteorology departments. Check if there are opportunities available in your area to learn more about how weather forecasts are made.

OREG 2026 HIGHER ED FORECASTS

As U.S. higher education moves through 2026, institutional leaders face unprecedented pressure to align missions, market demands, financial sustainability, and the physical campus itself. Strategic decisions around enrollment, programs, student experience, and capital investments are no longer siloed—they are deeply interconnected.

Oracle Real Estate Group (OREG) works at this intersection, helping institutions translate market data, student demand, and operational realities into informed,



defensible decisions. The following predictions outline what lies ahead—and where expert, data-driven advisory support becomes essential.

AI ADOPTION DRIVES NEW SPACE, TECHNOLOGY, AND HOUSING DEMANDS

Public institutions will deploy AI at scale to improve advising efficiency and student services, often increasing demand for flexible academic and support spaces.

Private institutions will use AI-enhanced experiences as a differentiator, reshaping expectations for learning environments and residential offerings.

OREG evaluates how emerging technologies influence space utilization, housing demand, and campus infrastructure, ensuring capital investments align with evolving student expectations rather than outdated assumptions.

DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS FORCE ENROLLMENT AND HOUSING STRATEGY REALIGNMENT

Declining traditional-age enrollment will push institutions to recruit adult learners, transfers, and nontraditional students.

- Public universities will lean on community college pipelines and regional access strategies.
- Private universities will pursue national recruitment and niche positioning.

OREG conducts market and demand studies that quantify who future students are, where they will live, and what housing and campus amenities they expect—supporting enrollment strategies with real estate and operational data.

3. MICRO-CREDENTIALS INFLUENCE CAMPUS UTILIZATION AND REVENUE MODELS

Short-term programs and stackable credentials will change how and when students use campus facilities.



- Public institutions may deliver credentials through workforce centers and shared facilities.
- Private institutions may integrate them into residential or hybrid models.

OREG assesses how new academic models affect housing occupancy, auxiliary revenue, and facility demand, helping institutions avoid overbuilding or underutilization.

COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION REDEFINES TIME-TO-DEGREE AND RESIDENCY PATTERNS



As CBE expands:

- Public institutions will attract more adult and commuter learners.
- Private institutions will selectively apply CBE in professional programs.

OREG models how accelerated and flexible learning formats impact housing demand, length of stay, and operational efficiency, supporting financially sound planning decisions.

STUDENT SUCCESS METRICS PUT PRESSURE ON RESIDENTIAL AND CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

Retention and completion outcomes are increasingly tied to the quality of the on-campus experience.

- Public universities will focus on scalable residential and support solutions.
- Private institutions will emphasize high-touch, experience-driven retention.

OREG evaluates how housing quality, pricing, amenities, and operations influence student satisfaction and persistence—linking real estate strategy directly to student success goals.



FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY FORCES HARD CHOICES ABOUT CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Institutions will face growing scrutiny around whether to renovate, build, consolidate, or partner.

- Public institutions must justify projects to governing bodies and taxpayers.
- Private institutions must protect balance sheets and bond ratings.

OREG provides independent, data-driven feasibility and financial analyses that help leaders make defensible decisions about new construction, renovations, public-private partnerships (P3s), or deferred investments.

WORK-INTEGRATED LEARNING WILL INCREASINGLY SHAPE LOCATION AND FACILITY NEEDS

Employer partnerships and experiential learning will influence campus planning.

- Public institutions will align facilities with regional workforce needs.
- Private institutions will leverage employer and alumni partnerships.

OREG supports institutions align facilities, housing, and mixed-use development with workforce engagement strategies—supporting both academic and economic development goals.

MENTAL HEALTH EXPECTATIONS ELEVATE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DESIGN

Well-being is increasingly tied to residential environments.

- Public institutions need scalable, cost-effective solutions.
- Private institutions often invest in enhanced residential experiences.

OREG assesses how housing design, density, amenities, and operational practices contribute to student well-being—ensuring investments support both health outcomes and financial sustainability.

SUSTAINABILITY AND DEI DRIVE CAPITAL PLANNING ACCOUNTABILITY

Institutions must demonstrate progress through facilities and operations.

- Public institutions face regulatory and reporting requirements.
- Private institutions align sustainability with brand and donor priorities.



OREG integrates sustainability, equity, and long-term asset performance into market and housing studies, helping leaders prioritize investments with measurable impact.

BOARDS INCREASINGLY DEMAND CLEAR, DEFENSIBLE DATA BEFORE APPROVING PROJECTS

In 2026, intuition and tradition are no longer enough.

- Public boards demand justification tied to access, affordability, and demand.
- Private boards expect risk mitigation and financial clarity.

OREG delivers clear, credible analyses that boards trust—combining student demand data, market conditions, financial modeling, and operational insight to support confident decision-making.



FINAL TAKEAWAY FOR UNIVERSITY LEADERS

The challenges facing higher education in 2026 are complex—but they are navigable with the right data and strategic perspective. Institutions that align academic vision, enrollment strategy, and physical campus planning will be best positioned for long-term success.

OREG supports public and private universities make informed decisions about housing, campus assets, and capital investments, ensuring that every project supports institutional mission, market reality, and financial sustainability.

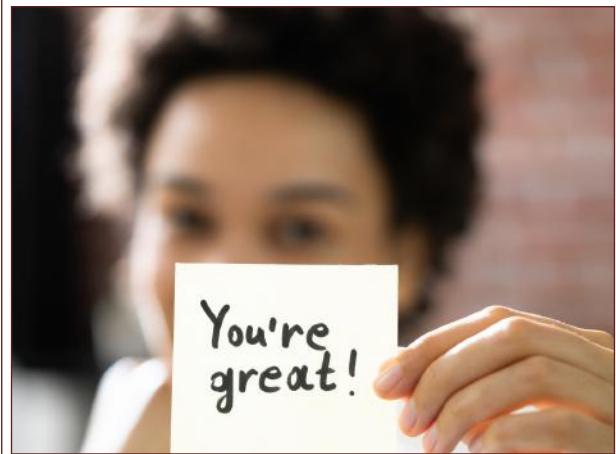
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Daily Themes & Fun Ways to Celebrate



February 6 Pay a Compliment Day

Gather your friends, classmates, or teammates and form a compliment circle. Each person takes a turn giving a heartfelt compliment to someone in the group. This exercise not only spreads joy but also allows everyone to practice giving and receiving compliments that improves mood and cognition.



February 7 National Ballet Day

One of the best ways to celebrate is by attending a live ballet performance. Check your local theaters for any special shows or events. Experiencing a live performance allows you to witness the intricate footwork, elegant movements, and emotional storytelling that make ballet so captivating.

**Tell us about your fun
Campus Events! And we'll
feature you on our monthly
journal!**



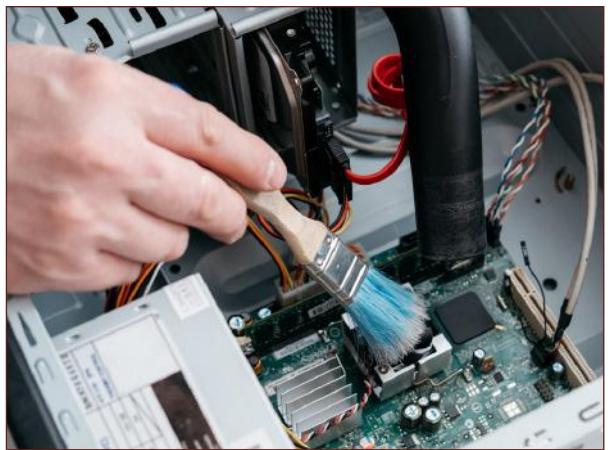
[Send your Photos
Here!!!](#)



February 8 Super Bowl Sunday

The halftime show is a highlight for many viewers. Encourage everyone to gather around and enjoy the performance. You might also plan some fun halftime activities, like a quick game of charades or a dance-off to the music being played.

Daily Themes & Fun Ways to Celebrate



February 9 Clean Out Your Computer Day

While cleaning out your computer may not sound exciting, you can make it more enjoyable: Compile a playlist of your favorite songs to listen to while cleaning. Plan a small reward for completing your clean-out, like a treat or a break to watch an episode of your favorite show.



February 10 National Umbrella Day

Throw an umbrella-themed dance party! Create a playlist of rain and weather-related songs, like "Umbrella" by Rihanna or "It's Raining Men" by The Weather Girls. Encourage your guests to bring their own umbrellas and incorporate them into dance routines.



February 11 National Guitar Day

Gather your friends and organize a jam session. Whether you're playing acoustic, electric, or bass guitars, jamming with others is a great way to celebrate. You can exchange tips, learn new songs, and enjoy the camaraderie of making music together.



February 12 Hug Day

Challenge yourself and your friends to a "Hug-a-thon." See who can give the most hugs in a day. Encourage participants to share their experiences and reflections on social media, using hashtags like #HugDayChallenge.

WHERE STUDENTS CAN THRIVE IN AN AUTOMATED WORLD

Artificial intelligence is no longer a distant concept—it is part of everyday life. From chatbots answering customer questions to algorithms writing code and analyzing data, AI is reshaping how work gets done. For students planning their futures, this reality can feel unsettling. Headlines often focus on which jobs AI might replace, leaving many to wonder whether their chosen path is still viable.

Yet history shows that technological disruption does not eliminate opportunity—it reshapes it. The most successful students in the age of AI will not be those who compete against machines at what machines do best, but those who build careers around distinctly human strengths. Many roles will not disappear; they will evolve, rewarding adaptability, creativity, and judgment.





Here are the types of jobs—and skill sets—that will continue to compete with AI and remain essential in the years ahead.

CAREERS ROOTED IN HUMAN JUDGMENT AND DECISION-MAKING

AI excels at processing vast amounts of data, but it struggles with ambiguity, ethics, and context. Jobs that require nuanced decision-making—especially when consequences affect people's lives—will remain highly valuable.

Fields such as law, public policy, management, and healthcare administration rely on interpreting

information, weighing competing priorities, and making judgment calls that cannot be automated. Students pursuing these paths will thrive by developing critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and leadership skills that complement AI tools rather than duplicate them.

ROLES BUILT ON CREATIVITY AND ORIGINAL THINKING

While AI can generate content, it does so by drawing from existing patterns. Truly original ideas—new concepts, strategies, and artistic visions—still come from humans.

Careers in design, marketing strategy, architecture, media, product development, and entrepreneurship depend on imagination, storytelling, and the ability to connect ideas in novel ways. Students in creative fields will compete successfully with AI by learning how to direct it as a tool while remaining the source of vision and originality.

JOBS THAT REQUIRE EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND HUMAN CONNECTION

AI can simulate conversation, but it cannot genuinely empathize. Professions centered on human relationships remain difficult to automate because trust, compassion, and emotional awareness matter.

Careers in counseling, social work, education, nursing, human resources, and student services depend on understanding people, responding to emotions, and building relationships over time. As mental health, well-being, and interpersonal support become more critical, demand for these roles is likely to grow—not shrink.



HANDS-ON AND SKILLED TRADES THAT RELY ON PHYSICAL PRESENCE

Many jobs require physical dexterity, adaptability, and real-world problem-solving—areas where AI and robotics remain limited.

Skilled trades such as electrical work, plumbing, construction management, advanced manufacturing, and HVAC are increasingly technology-enabled but still human-driven. These careers often offer strong wages, job security, and opportunities for advancement, making them an attractive and often overlooked option for students seeking stability.

CAREERS THAT COMBINE TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE WITH HUMAN INSIGHT

Some of the strongest future-proof careers sit at the intersection of technology and human judgment. Rather than replacing these roles, AI enhances them.

Fields such as data analysis, cybersecurity, UX design, digital health, and instructional design require professionals who understand technology and its real-world implications. Students who develop technical literacy alongside communication, ethics, and strategic thinking will be especially competitive.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT ROLES

AI can optimize processes, but it cannot lead people. Organizations will continue to need managers who can motivate teams, navigate change, resolve conflict, and make strategic decisions.

Students aspiring to leadership roles should focus on building skills in communication, collaboration, adaptability, and systems thinking. These roles will increasingly require leaders who understand AI's capabilities—but also know its limits.

EMERGING CAREERS SHAPED BY AI—NOT REPLACED BY IT

AI is also creating entirely new career paths. Roles such as AI ethicist, prompt engineer, learning experience designer, digital privacy specialist, and technology policy advisor barely existed a few years ago.





Students who stay curious, pursue interdisciplinary learning, and remain open to nontraditional career paths will find opportunities in roles that are still taking shape.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Thriving in an AI-influenced workforce does not require avoiding technology—it requires learning how to work alongside it. The most successful students will be those who:

- Build strong communication and critical thinking skills
- Develop emotional intelligence and adaptability
- Gain real-world experience through internships and applied learning
- Learn to use AI as a tool, not a crutch

Career readiness today is less about choosing a single “safe” job and more about developing a flexible skill set that can evolve over time.

LOOKING AHEAD WITH CONFIDENCE

AI will continue to change how work is done—but it will not replace the need for human insight, creativity, and connection. Students who invest in these strengths will remain competitive, resilient, and in demand.

The future of work belongs not to machines alone, but to people who know how to think critically, care deeply, and adapt continuously. In that future, students are not being replaced—they are being redefined.

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www.oraclerealestategroup.com



Daily Themes & Fun Ways to Celebrate



February 13 Self-Love Day

Self-love is about recognizing your worth, accepting your imperfections, and being kind to yourself. Express yourself through a creative activity, such as painting, writing, or music. Creativity can be a therapeutic way to explore your emotions and celebrate your unique talents. Allow yourself to create without the pressure of perfection.



February 14 Valentine/Palentine's Day

Valentine's day is a wonderful day to celebrate the love shared both romantic and among friends (Palentine). Gather your friends for a potluck inspired by the holiday's themes—think heart-shaped pizzas, red velvet cupcakes, or chocolate fondue. This gathering allows everyone to share a meal, laugh, and enjoy each other's company in a cozy setting.



February 15 Singles Awareness Day

Singles Awareness Day, often celebrated on February 15th, is a fun and inclusive way to embrace singlehood with friends. You can create a cozy atmosphere with blankets, pillows, and popcorn. Some movie suggestions might include Ferris Bueller's Day Off, or The Breakfast Club. This is a great way to bond over shared stories and laughs.

Daily Themes & Fun Ways to Celebrate



February 16 Innovation Day

A hackathon is a fantastic way to bring together like-minded individuals for a day of collaboration and creativity. Teams to brainstorm, design, and develop solutions to real-world problems. This event provides an opportunity for young innovators to showcase their skills in technology, engineering, and design.



February 17 National Tennis Pro Day

Organize a friendly tennis tournament with friends or local community members. This can be a great way to enjoy the sport while fostering a sense of camaraderie. Consider including singles and doubles matches to cater to different skill levels. Make sure to have some fun prizes for the winners to add a competitive edge.



February 18 Pluto Day

Spend an evening under the stars with a telescope or binoculars. While Pluto is too faint to see without professional equipment, you can still enjoy the beauty of the night sky and learn about the planets and constellations. Consider downloading a stargazing app to help identify celestial bodies.



February 19 National Airboat Day

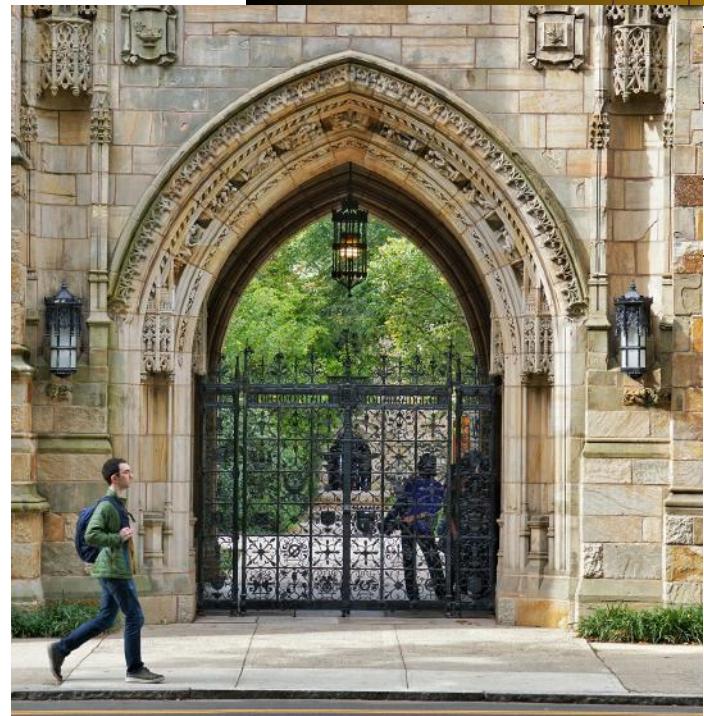
Plan your adventure with friends who are eager to explore the outdoors. Airboat adventures are perfect for groups, allowing you to share the experience and make memories together. Ensure everyone is comfortable with the plan and excited for the adventure.

HOW HIGHER ED MOVES FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE

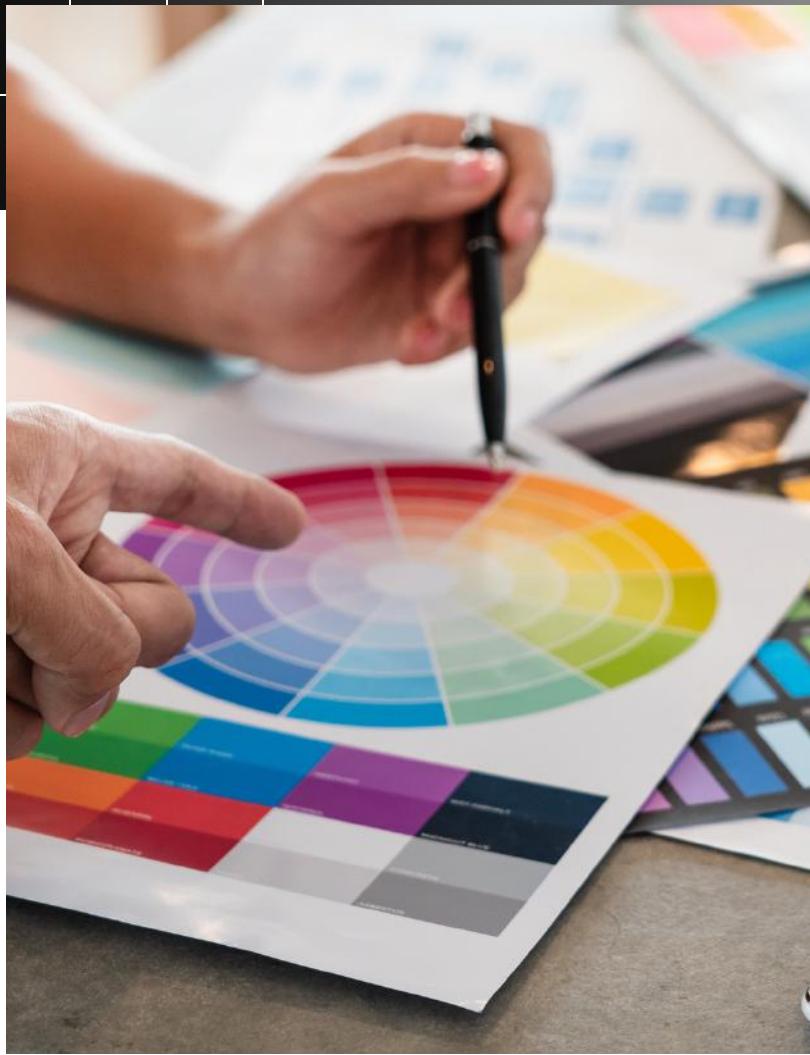
Uncertainty has become the defining condition of American higher education. Enrollment volatility, shifting demographics, financial pressure, rapid technological change, and evolving student expectations now intersect in ways few institutional playbooks anticipated. For presidents, provosts, CFOs, and trustees, the question in 2026 is no longer how to eliminate uncertainty—but how to lead through it effectively.

Institutions that thrive in this environment share a common trait:

they replace assumption-based decision-making with clarity, adaptability, and data-driven strategy. In an era when the margin for error is shrinking, thriving requires a fundamentally different approach to planning and execution.



Is a Focus Group
or Survey Right
For You?



ACCEPTING UNCERTAINTY AS A STRATEGIC CONSTANT

For decades, higher education operated on relatively stable assumptions about enrollment growth, residential demand, and campus expansion. Those assumptions no longer hold. Demographic decline, changing student pathways, and economic pressures have made volatility the norm rather than the exception.

Thriving institutions begin by acknowledging this reality. Instead of clinging to long-range plans built on fixed projections, they adopt flexible strategies that can adjust to changing conditions. This mindset shift allows leaders to act proactively rather than reactively—making uncertainty a manageable variable rather than an existential threat.

LEADING WITH DATA VERSUS HOPE

In times of uncertainty, optimism alone is risky. Successful institutions ground their vision in evidence—using market data, student behavior analysis, and financial modeling to inform decisions. This is especially critical when it comes to enrollment planning, housing strategy, and capital investment.

OREG supports institutions in this work by translating complex market and demand data into actionable insight. Rather than asking institutions to predict the future, OREG helps leaders understand realistic demand scenarios, operational implications, and financial risk—providing a clearer foundation for strategic choice.

ALIGNING CAMPUS ASSETS WITH INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES

The physical campus has become one of the most consequential—and costly—expressions of institutional strategy. Housing, land use, and auxiliary facilities directly influence enrollment, retention, and financial sustainability. In uncertain times, misalignment between campus assets and institutional priorities can quickly undermine even the strongest academic vision.

Thriving institutions regularly reassess how students use campus

space, how long they stay, and what they value most. They ask difficult questions about whether existing facilities support current and future learners—or reflect outdated models. Advisors like OREG help institutions evaluate these questions objectively, ensuring capital decisions are right-sized, defensible, and mission-aligned.



FLEXIBILITY AS A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

Flexibility is emerging as a defining strength in higher education. Institutions that thrive during uncertainty offer multiple entry points, varied learning formats, and adaptable residential options. This flexibility allows them to serve traditional undergraduates, adult learners, transfer students, and short-term credential seekers without overextending resources.

From a campus perspective, flexibility means designing housing and facilities that can adapt to fluctuating demand rather than assuming perpetual growth. OREG's market and feasibility studies help institutions test scenarios, understand elasticity in student demand, and plan assets that remain viable across multiple futures.

MAKING FEWER DECISIONS—BUT MAKING THEM BETTER

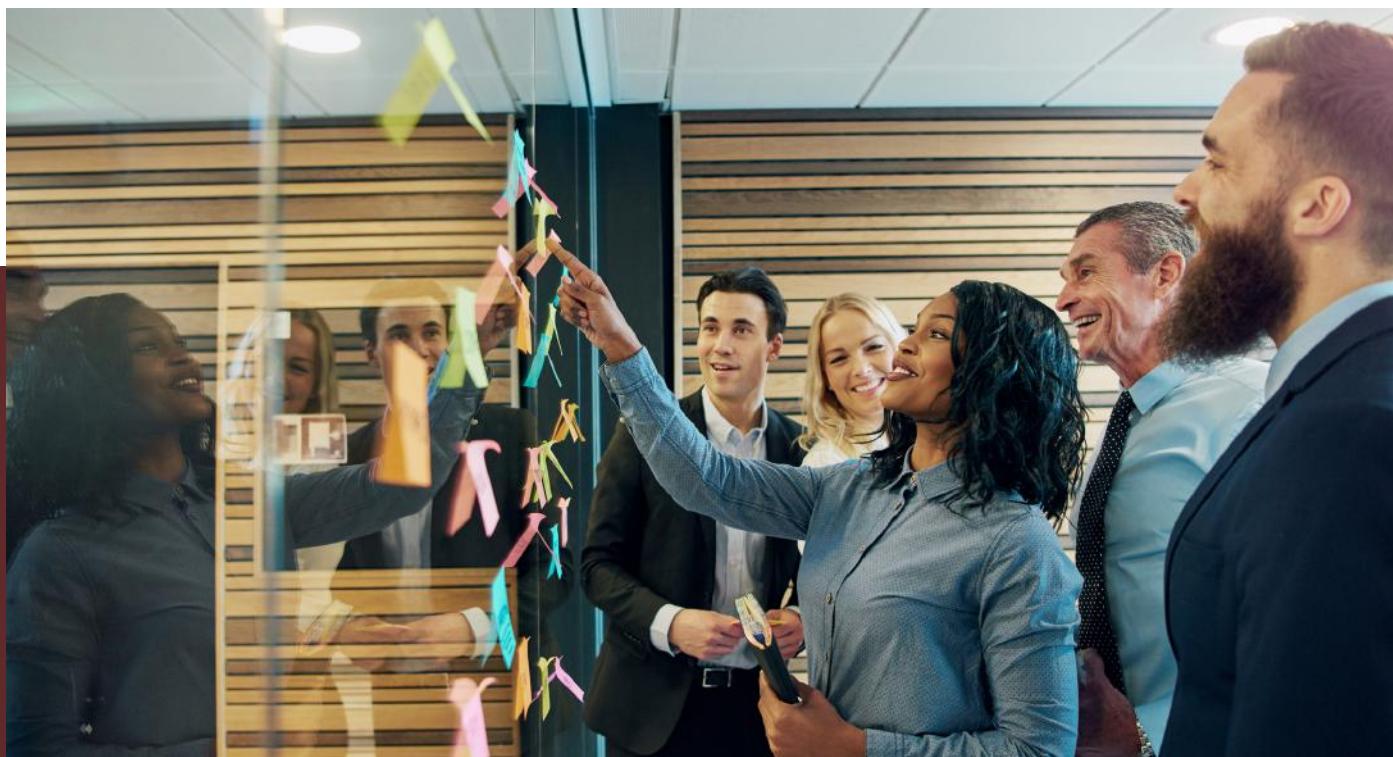
Uncertainty often creates decision paralysis. Thriving leaders counter this by narrowing focus—prioritizing fewer, higher-impact decisions and supporting them with rigorous analysis. Instead of launching multiple speculative initiatives, they invest in strategies with the strongest alignment between mission, market demand, and financial capacity.

Independent advisory partners play a critical role here. OREG provides third-party insight that helps leadership teams and boards evaluate trade-offs objectively, strengthening institutional confidence and governance alignment at moments when clarity matters most.

BUILDING TRUST WITH BOARDS AND STAKEHOLDERS

In uncertain environments, trust becomes currency. Boards, faculty, donors, and public stakeholders want transparency and credible rationale behind institutional decisions—especially those involving major investments or structural change.

Institutions that thrive communicate clearly, using data to explain not only what decisions are being made, but why. OREG’s analyses are often used in board discussions precisely because they offer independent validation—helping institutions build trust, reduce risk, and move forward decisively.





THRIVING, NOT JUST SURVIVING

Uncertainty does not have to lead to contraction or retreat. For many institutions, it can be a catalyst for sharper focus, better alignment, and stronger long-term positioning. Thriving in uncertainty requires courage—but also discipline, evidence, and the right partners.

Oracle Real Estate Group works with colleges and universities navigating these moments, helping leaders align enrollment realities, student expectations, and campus assets into a coherent, sustainable strategy. In an era defined by uncertainty, institutions that plan deliberately and act with clarity will not merely endure—they will thrive.

Daily Themes & Fun Ways to Celebrate



February 20 World Storytelling Day

World Storytelling Day is an international celebration of the art of oral storytelling. Experiment with various forms of storytelling, such as spoken word poetry, short films, or digital storytelling. This exploration can introduce new ways to express ideas and emotions, pushing the boundaries of traditional storytelling.

Daily Themes & Fun Ways to Celebrate



February 21 Card Reading Day

Invite friends over for a fun and insightful evening. You can each take turns reading cards for one another, sharing interpretations, and discussing what each card might mean in your lives. Provide snacks and a cozy atmosphere to make the gathering even more enjoyable.



February 22 National California Day

California is a melting pot of culinary influences, offering a wide array of delicious foods. Celebrate National California Day by sampling some iconic Californian cuisine: Fish tacos, Avocado toast, and In-N-Out burger.



February 23 National Puppy Day

One of the most rewarding ways to celebrate National Puppy Day is by volunteering at a local animal shelter. Many shelters welcome volunteers to help with tasks such as socializing with them, and assisting with daily care. Spend time with adorable pups but also helps shelters by providing much-needed support.



February 24 World Bartender Day

Hosting a mocktail party is a fantastic way to celebrate. Gather your friends and experiment with non-alcoholic beverages that are just as delicious and sophisticated as their alcoholic counterparts.

PALENTINE'S DAY: BECAUSE LOVE ISN'T JUST ROMANTIC

Valentine's Day has long been wrapped in red roses, candlelit dinners, and grand romantic gestures. But in recent years, a quieter—arguably warmer—celebration has been stealing the spotlight: Palentine's Day. Equal parts playful and meaningful, Palentine's Day is all about honoring the friendships that carry us through life, heartbreaks, milestones, and everything in between.

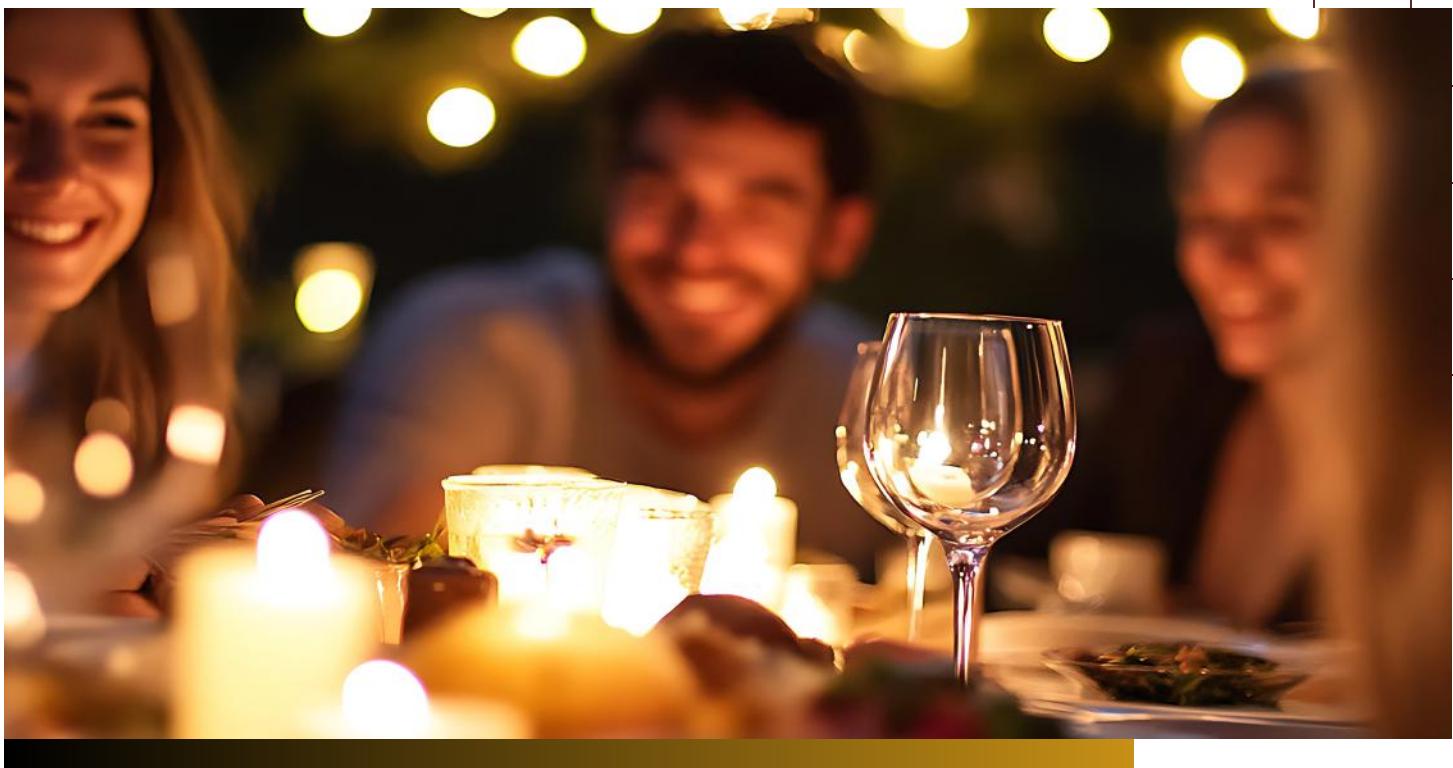


At its heart, Palentine's Day recognizes a simple truth: friends are a form of soulmates. They're the people who know your coffee order by heart, show up with snacks instead of speeches, and remind you who you are when the world feels loud. While romantic love may come and go, friendships often form the steady backdrop of our lives.

Unlike traditional Valentine's expectations, Palentine's Day comes with very few rules—and that's part of its charm. Some friends exchange handwritten notes or small gifts that reflect inside jokes and shared memories.

Others plan brunches, movie marathons, game nights, or group dinners where laughter is the main course. For long-distance pals, a video call or surprise delivery can bridge the miles just as effectively.

There's also something quietly powerful about celebrating friendship in a culture that often prioritizes romantic relationships above all else. Palentine's Day makes space for people who are single, partnered, divorced, widowed—or simply uninterested in the pressure of couple-centric holidays. It reframes February 14 as a day of connection rather than comparison.



Social media has helped Palentine's Day flourish, but its roots go deeper than a trending hashtag. It's a reminder that love is expansive. It shows up in friends who cheer the loudest at your wins, sit with you in silence during hard seasons, and choose you again and again without obligation.

In a world that often moves too fast, Palentine's Day encourages us to pause and say thank you—to the friends who feel like family, the chosen people who make ordinary days brighter. Because romance may be celebrated once a year, but friendship deserves its own spotlight.

This Valentine's season, whether you're clinking glasses with your best friends or sending a simple text that says "I'm grateful for you," remember: love doesn't have just one shape. Sometimes, it looks like a table full of friends, shared stories, and the kind of joy that lasts far beyond February 14.

Daily Themes & Fun Ways to Celebrate



February 25 Cherry Blossom Festival

Held annually in Washington, D.C., this event attracts visitors from all over the world to witness the breathtaking spectacle of nature. One of the highlights of the festival is the Cherry Blossom Parade, a vibrant spectacle featuring elaborate floats, marching bands, and performers from across the country.



February 26 Tell a Fairy Tale Day

Channel your favorite fairy tale character by hosting a costume party. Encourage guests to dress as their favorite prince, princess, witch, or mythical creature. Enhance the experience with themed decorations, fairy tale-inspired snacks, and a playlist of magical music.



February 27 Retro Day

One of the highlights of Retro Day is dressing up in styles from previous decades. Whether you're drawn to the swinging '60s, the disco vibes of the '70s, the bold colors and patterns of the '80s, or the grunge look of the '90s, there's a style for everyone.

Housing Professionals forward to your Resident and Community Assistants



CONFLICT RESOLUTION ESSENTIAL SKILLS

First published June 2022

As young adults, most students are still honing their conflict resolution strategies. You will have conflicts, there's no question about it. What's important is to learn how to tango with them and nurture strong long-term relationships that will support you both personally and professionally.

It is easy to encounter conflicts in your personal or professional life without going out of your way. A conflict can arise as a result of difference of views and opinions, or unmet expectations of someone or something.

Professionally, the stakes can be higher with consequences that may affect someone's career, making it essential to practice perfecting these skills during your higher education years.



WHAT IS CONFLICT RESOLUTION?

Conflict resolution is a strategy that allows both parties to agree on a common solution while keeping their disagreement aside. The idea is to find a solution that satisfies both parties. You can adopt a formal or informal approach to conflict resolution.

Effective conflict resolution can help restore a working relationship between two parties and devise ways for better collaboration in the future. Therefore, conflict resolution is not only about solving the problem at hand but making sure that specific issues never arise again.

THE 4 CRITICAL SKILLS YOU NEED FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Here are four skills that will help you resolve a conflict in a personal and professional setup.

#1 – NEGOTIATION

Once you step into your professional life after college, you will have to deal with difficult situations and people. For this, you will have to be a good negotiator. Conflict management is all about coming to a solution that's acceptable for both parties.





Therefore, you must learn to be flexible and accommodate the other party's opinion. A self-centric approach is not going to do you any favors. It would be best not to think of it as a conflict but as a problem that needs a solution.

Taking on a leadership role in your college life, such as being a team captain or head of the student body, will give you ample opportunities to develop your negotiation skills.

#2 – LEARN TO BE UNBIASED

As a leader, one of your responsibilities may include acting as an intermediary and trying to resolve a conflict between two parties, while putting your bias aside. Participating in college activities that require solving conflicts between students will help you learn how to be neutral.

If you are involved in a dispute with a fellow student, it is best to reflect on your opinion to see if it has any flaws. This will help you give up being stern, agree to a mutually beneficial solution, and overcome various challenges in your professional life.

#3- RECONCILIATION

Ever been in an argument or disagreement with a fellow student or a friend? You can learn to reconcile the differences by finding a middle ground. This method is also known as “compromise.” You must be open to agreeing to a mutually beneficial solution to settle a dispute. Both parties must be willing to forfeit some of their demands and agree to the other party's demands as well.

Compromise can come in handy to allow a temporary solution while both parties work on a long-term solution.

#4 – COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

A leader must be a good communicator and have a collaborative approach to working with a team. Your words and actions can inspire those who look up to you. At a college, you can get a lot of opportunities to inspire fellow students and be a figure of authority by taking on responsible roles. You must learn to be a good communicator and know how to collaborate with others when trying to solve an issue.



This will help you voice your opinion and listen to the other side of the story. As an intermediary facilitating a conflict resolution between two parties, your communication skills will come in handy for smooth negotiations.

CONCLUSION

You may come across conflicts in various areas of your life. However, the four skills you just learned about in this post will help you reach a resolution in a more convenient and friendly way. Staying in control of your emotions, keeping arrogance aside, and showing a willingness to agree to a common solution will help you overcome any disagreement in any situation.

Daily Themes & Fun Ways to Celebrate



February 28 Floral Design Day

Invite friends over for a floral design party. Provide a selection of flowers and supplies, and spend the day creating beautiful arrangements together. This is a great way to bond with friends and share your love for floral art.

Ready to take your Student Engagement Programming to the next level?

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JOIN OUR TEAM OF CONSULTANTS!

Are you an experienced leadership professional in the areas of facilities, dining, campus life or student engagement programming?



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