Exercise 1: Challenges in Higher Education

This exercise invites participants to think about how SUNY Fredonia might face the many challenges in public higher education.

Materials needed:
- Flipchart paper and markers (or white/blackboard or computer with projector)
- Index cards and pens/pencils
- Exercise 1 Response Template (available on CD or on the Power of Fredonia website, www.fredonia.edu/president/strategicplan2011)
- Printed exercise sheets (or overhead slide/transparency and projector)

Recommended group size and composition:
- Any size group
- Faculty, staff, students, others

Time required:
- 15-20 minutes without discussion
- 60-75 minutes with discussion

Instructions for the facilitator:
1. Give each person a copy of the worksheet (next page) or use an overhead projector, Elmo, white/blackboard or computer to display the questions.
2. Ask each participant to answer the questions in section 1 alone, without discussion, for about 10 minutes.
3. Then ask participants to work in pairs, sharing their responses and then moving on to answer the questions in section 2 together.
4. Invite participants to share their responses with the entire group, asking someone to serve as a recorder on flipchart paper or computer.
5. After the session, use the document template to record the main ideas generated by this group, and send the Word document to strategicplan2011@fredonia.edu. The document should summarize the individual responses as well as the group’s collective effort in answering the questions.
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1. On your own, work quickly to answer each of these questions:
   - What are the major challenges in public higher education right now?
   - What conditions or choices have created those challenges?
   - In what ways do these challenges affect SUNY Fredonia?

2. With a partner, share your responses to the questions of the first section, and then work together to answer these questions:
   - In what ways do national/international challenges require SUNY Fredonia to change?
   - What could SUNY Fredonia do in the face of the challenges to higher education?