

EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

BY LARRAINE SEGIL

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Featuring:

Ena Hull

*Chief Operating Officer,
Legacy Education, Inc.*



You've been hearing a lot lately about student loan forgiveness, but that's just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to disruption in higher education. **Ena Hull**, with over 25 years of experience in higher education and financing, now the Chief Operating Officer at Legacy Education, is a thought leader in this space.

Last year, I was thrilled to select Ena as a member of the Exceptional Women Alliance (ExceptionalWomenAlliance.com). I created the EWA as a sisterhood of high-performing, high-potential woman who mentor each other to reach their professional and personal goals.

During a recent interview, Ena shared some new and interesting changes happening in higher education.

Micro-credentials are a hot topic right now.

"A micro-credential is a really condensed education. In 4 to 6 weeks, you learn a particular skill set, pass a test, and earn a credential. Those little micro-credentials add up; some students find that they only need one or two skill sets to enter, or re-enter, the workforce.

"Speed is the key today. People are looking for the shortest possible completion time, with the highest possible employability, to get the most value for their money."

The competition for higher education is industry itself.

"Companies—and students—are questioning whether or not an instructor who may have a degree from 20 or 25 years ago is relevant for today. Who has access to the most up-to-date information that's going on in the marketplace? These companies, such as Google and Apple, believe that *they* have it. So, they are taking on higher education and training within their own industries and building their own programs."

There are more aspects to student loan forgiveness than you may realize.

"For the first time ever, we have \$1.75 trillion in student loan debt. It far exceeds credit card and auto loan debt. But student loan forgiveness is not something you can arbitrarily say can be waived. There are regulatory requirements. There are fairness and equity issues for the families who've already paid off their student loan debt.

"So rather than going down that road, there are other opportunities, such as companies offering debt payment assistance and public service arrangements. Let's create an exchange, not simply wipe the slate clean."

Clearly long-held perceptions about higher education no longer apply. Ena's expert insights remind me that **no industry is immune to customer demand and the imperative to innovate**. As Ena predicts, we will undoubtedly see sweeping changes in traditional higher education institutions.

I hope you'll take a few minutes to watch [my full interview with Ena](#) on the EWA YouTube channel. We have many exciting and information programs planned for this year. I'll be in touch soon with details.

Until next time,

Larraine

Founder, Chair & CEO
Exceptional Women Alliance Foundation

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