Higher Education for Democracy: The Role of the University in Civil Society

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15:00 – 16:15
Room 205, Runme Shaw Building, HKU
(Chair: Dr Anatoly Oleksiyenko)

Abstract:
Globalization is transforming virtually all of modern life. Goods, services, jobs, technology, and information have changed in both developed and developing countries. These forces and their impacts, however, are neither well understood nor well examined, particularly as how they have impacted tertiary education. What seems to be taking place is a myriad of interconnected changes: traditional academic disciplines are falling by the wayside, the traditional role of the academic is being redefined as tenure is eliminated, research is increasingly corporatized, public funding is decreasing or awarded in a radically different manner from the past, and competition is increasing from the for-profit sector. The presentation considers the changes that are taking place in the broader environment and asks what roles universities might play in fomenting a more civic, democratic society.

About the speaker:
William Tierney is University Professor and Wilbur-Kieffer Professor of Higher Education at Rossier and the Co-Director of the Pullias Center for Higher Education. He is an expert on higher education policy analysis, governance, and administration; his research interests pertain to faculty productivity, decision making, organizational re-engineering, and issues of equity. Having spent over two decades conducting research on college access for underrepresented youth, as well as improving the performance of colleges and universities, Tierney is committed to informing policies and practices related to educational equity and postsecondary effectiveness. He has served as President of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), currently serves on the International Advisory Board of King Abdulaziz University (Saudi Arabia) and is an Interdisciplinary Research Fellow at the University of Hong Kong. The results of his work have appeared in numerous journal articles, book chapters, and books. His most recent publications include: Rethinking Education and Poverty; The Problem of College Readiness; The Impact of Culture on Organizational Decision-making, Trust and the Public Good: Examining the Cultural Conditions of Academic Work, and Understanding the Rise of For-profit Colleges and Universities.

~ All are welcome ~
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