some reason to believe that private liberal arts colleges may face a particularly difficult future recruiting the students who remain in recruitment pools. In the recent past, Hispanics have disproportionately enrolled in public institutions and as part-time students. These enrollment patterns suggest that many liberal arts colleges will need to overcome barriers if they are to attract students from this increasingly important subpopulation. (Fortunately, Hispanic enrollments in general and at four-year schools in particular have surged in the last decade, with the overall attendance rate achieving parity with the national average.)

A more fundamental threat to liberal arts colleges may flow from their liberal arts missions. Michelle R. Weise argues that higher education in general, and liberal arts colleges in particular, must reconceive the connection between education and workplace preparation. If industry doesn’t force this conversation, prospective students might. Corey Seemiller and Meghan Grace argue that students in Generation Z are particularly concerned about the relevance of their education, including how what they learn in the classroom can be applied to careers. The work of Vicki L. Baker, Roger G. Baldwin, and Sumedha Makker suggests that we can already see the effects of these related forces in a trend toward fewer schools with a deep commitment to a liberal arts mission. After all, by this accounting, in just twenty years, we have witnessed a reduction of almost 40 percent in the number of liberal arts colleges nationwide. In the late 2020s, as the number of potential students declines and multiple stakeholders increasingly press institutions to attend to workplace preparation, should we expect an amplification of this trend?

Recognizing the arguments that led some to these worries, I see reasons to hope for a vibrant future for the liberal arts. First, Debra Humphreys and Patrick Kelly note that we create a false dichotomy when we define a liberal arts education in contrast to workplace preparation. For example, those prepared with a liberal arts education match or better their professionally trained peers in employment rates and earnings. DePauw University has recently embraced the career empowerment of the liberal arts degree through the DePauw Gold Commitment. DePauw guarantees that students who take advantage of the university’s programs and graduate in four years in good standing will secure