Higher education is changing at a pace not seen since the end of World War II. The drivers include cost, employment, technology, public opinion, and political pressures among others. These changes are profound, and for higher education the future is unlikely to resemble the past. How best to position an institution, college, or department in this highly uncertain time is a critical issue. The role of faculty will change; technology will drive cost reductions; and political and economic pressures will require state schools to seek new ways of doing business. Institutions must be nimble and able to adapt to these new realities in order to thrive and grow.

This presentation will focus on an overview of the changing trends in higher education, the impacts that they are having, and ways in which universities are adjusting. The presentation will conclude by exploring a case study in program development of sustainability education at the University of Wisconsin.