For many colleges and universities, the pandemic experience revealed the surprising value and efficacy for online learning. Remote instruction, one of several modalities for course delivery, gives these institutions a chance to provide the flexibility today’s students want.

The following opportunities for online learning are grounded in findings from the “CHLOE 6 Report: Online Learning Leaders Adapt for a Post-Pandemic World,” a 2021 survey of chief online officers (COOs) from 422 colleges and universities. The report, conducted by Quality Matters and Eduventures Research, examined the structure of online higher education in the US, but its insights into the impact of the crisis on the future of online learning has global implications — and opportunities.

Higher ed IT leaders everywhere can implement these four insights to make it easier for faculty and staff to inspire extraordinary experiences in any campus environment.
57% of institutions in all sectors are reevaluating their strategic priorities relative to online learning.

Top areas of focus:

- **33%** Expanding online course and program choices
- **24%** Recognizing and supporting online learning priorities and needs
- **17%** Increasing flexibility to meet student needs with multiple teaching modes

Next-level video and virtual collaboration

COOs from every sector of college and university surveyed — including those with historically low online enrollment — increased their investments in educational technology during the pandemic. This spending surge boosted institution-wide mainstream adoption of some ed tech tools and resources more than others. Video recording, distribution, and accessibility tools rose to the top, as did virtual labs and simulations, which saw an increase in adoption by more than 100% from before the pandemic.

Opportunity

Ensure your current tech environment supports these teaching tools. Lenovo Education solutions are designed for the unique challenges of hybrid learning. Our ThinkSmart Hub all-in-one room system, powered by the Intel vPro® platform, makes videoconferencing and virtual experiences more engaging and interactive for all. It’s also designed to optimize Microsoft Teams Rooms, where collaboration happens seamlessly.

Lenovo recommends Windows 10 Pro for Business.
COOs identified three core online faculty development tasks as future institutional priorities: online teaching, meeting minimum standards for online quality, and training to use LMS and technology and/or to design online courses.

Across all sectors, hiring instructional designers ranked lower in priority for faculty development but received the most open-ended comments from respondents. They would love instructional designers to support their faculty but were unable to hire new staff.

**Opportunity**

Find internal expertise or opportunities within your current partnerships to train and empower faculty to maximize technology for synchronous and/or asynchronous delivery methods.
Will the appeal of online learning fade as campuses welcome in-person learners once again? Quite the opposite, according to the overwhelming majority of COO respondents:

• **90% expect growth in undergraduate online course enrollment.**
  More community college COOs anticipate high growth than their counterparts at public and private four-year colleges.

• **92% expect growth in graduate online course enrollment.**
  With no distinction between sectors, online learning appears as acceptable in private nonprofit institutions as in public ones.

Interestingly, many COOs anticipated a focus on local and home state markets when deciding which future developments to make to their fully online programs. Higher education school brands are most well known within their local geographic regions, so recruitment for online learning in local markets, as the CHLOE 6 report affirms, "...may be the best way to counter the online giants and carve out a sustainable market niche.”

**Opportunity**
Entice professors around the world to teach your students with technology designed for broader, better collaboration. And for support, consider using cloud-based management software that helps IT manage and protect an institution-wide fleet while offering increased levels of control and analytics.
Providing laptops and other devices, expanding campus internet access, and distributing wireless hotspots were the most common strategies institutions used to address the digital divide. Yet most COOs ranked addressing the digital divide as a minor responsibility.

Devices and leadership to bridge the digital divide

Opportunity
Higher ed IT leaders can help to address the digital divide challenge by implementing technology with the most comprehensive protection for their faculty and students.

Try a modern Lenovo device with Windows 10 Pro and powered by the Intel vPro® platform, delivering business-class performance for on-campus and remote classrooms. A DaaS solution also frees up time for IT teams to develop technology training materials for students, faculty, and staff so they can achieve more on the digital platforms they’re currently using.

Lenovo recommends Windows 10 Pro for Business.
Partner with Lenovo to empower the future of higher education

Lenovo delivers higher education solutions designed to prepare today’s students for tomorrow’s opportunities. We empower faculty, staff, and scholars at every level with durable, secure, manageable devices and technology leadership to inspire creativity and drive imagination in any campus environment. Through continuous innovation that anticipates future challenges, we provide tech for the next generation of leaders.

Learn more at www.lenovo.com/Education.