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## Panel - Sharing Economy and Online/Blended Education: Implications

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### **ABSTRACT**

The sharing economy phenomenon is having significant impact on a variety of organizations. This panel will first discuss the general implications of the sharing concepts then explore its potential implications for online and blended education. We discuss ways to apply the proven concepts from the sharing economy to better utilize resources to more effectively and economically deliver high quality online and blended higher education.

### **Keywords**

Sharing economy, online and blended education

### **INTRODUCTION**

Information technology has disrupted many traditional ways of conducting business and performing tasks and processes in all kinds of organizations over the past several decades. More recently, a phenomenon known as the sharing economy is creating disruptions in a number of areas including hospitality industry, transportation, home repair services, cleaning services, and even occasional restaurant services.

This panel will look into the opportunities and challenges of the sharing economy then looks at ways that some proven concepts of this phenomenon could be applied to higher quality and lower costs delivery of online and blended higher education.

The panel will specifically look at the following areas:

1. Ways to leverage open source contents to enhance the overall quality of higher educational resources
2. How to better utilize the limited and diminishing state support for public higher education by sharing under-utilized class capacity among various institutions?
3. How could the sharing economy concepts facilitate more widely availability of online and blended courses so that students can complete their degree requirements on a timely fashion?

4. How could we better utilize available rating systems to deliver higher quality online and blended higher education?
5. Identifying ways to remedy the mundane and antiquated regulations which some boards impose on institutions which prevent them from meaningful collaboration in delivering high quality online and blended higher education.