

tion intended to cut 13 majors — a plan that would eventually be scrapped in the face of loud protests. (See Page A34.)

Then, this month, the higher-ed scholar Kevin McClure spotted the identical phrase in the University of Tulsa's announcement that it intended to eliminate dozens of programs in response to "a changing higher-education landscape." (See Page A24.)

"For too long, we have tried to be everything to everyone," reads the text of a talk to Tulsa's faculty and staff members by Janet K. Levit, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. "We have been spread too thin and, in many cases, have not been able to achieve excellence as a result."

With the program cuts, Tulsa (endowment: \$1 billion) is repositioning itself as a university that is "STEM-heavy with a professional, practical focus."

To many people in higher ed, that reads as yet another blow to the notion of a liberal-arts education as the rising tide that lifts all boats.

Corrine McConnaughy, a political scientist at George Washington University, took issue with the notion that a college degree is merely an avenue to a job. "To me — a first-gen college student — the saddest part is the reinforcement of the belief that 'the lower classes' don't deserve access to enriched capacity for independent thought and democratic citizenship," she wrote on Twitter. "They (we) only deserve job skills."

## 'Reimagining' in Tulsa

If an administrator says, "We just can't be everything to everyone," duck your head and get ready for program cuts.

The provost at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point used those words last year in an interview with *The Atlantic's* Adam Harris to explain why the institu-