Welcome to Wednesday, December 14. Here's what you need to know about higher ed today:

**Shielding climate data.**

Scientists are downloading federal data on climate change, fearing that it could be made inaccessible during a Trump presidency. The president-elect and his inauguration team have not said that they will manipulate public data on the environment, but a call to action, #DataRefuge, aims to gather as much as possible before Trump's inauguration, in January.

Groups like the Union of Concerned Scientists are publicizing the effort and creating tools, like secure email accounts, "so people can get in touch with us in an encrypted way" to report political interference or share information anonymously, Michael Halpern, deputy director of the union's Center for Science and Democracy, told The Chronicle's Goldie Blumenstyk yesterday.

**A growing watchlist.**

More professors are standing with those named on the Professor Watchlist. The American Association of University Professors is inviting its members and supporters to join in a request to the creator of the list to add their names. The watchlist aims to "expose" professors who "advance leftist propaganda" in their classes.

**Quick hits.**

- The Kentucky state auditor will today release a special audit of the University of Louisville Foundation.
- Iowa's state auditor won't look further into flights on university airplanes taken by Steven Leath, Iowa State University's president.
- Robert G. Frank, president of the University of New Mexico, is leaving five months early, after an investigation questioned whether he had created a hostile work environment.
- Linda P.B. Katehi, who resigned as chancellor of the University of California at Davis last summer, is no longer seeking to become director of the Feminist Research Institute there, The Sacramento Bee reports.

**Matching colleges and foundations.**

From The Chronicle's Sara Hebel:

It started with a dinner. Followed by a campus visit. Informal chats. Then, 22 months later, a formal proposal was on the table.

When Katie Masterson first told me that her reporting about how colleges can best work with foundations was starting to feel a bit like Date Lab, I laughed. The more she told me, though, the more the analogy held.

At the beginning, colleges are nervous: How do I make the first move? What do I say? To make the right pitch, Katie's sources told her, you have to know yourself, be open, and think long-term. Foundations, which gave a total of $11.6 billion to higher education in 2015, are looking for inspiration, smart ideas, and ways to
gave a total of $11.6 billion to higher education in 2015, are looking for inspiration, smart ideas, and ways to solve big problems. Katie’s story has tips for how to engage.

What’s new for subscribers on the site.

- Here’s how personal ties led to a $10-million donation for one community college.
- Do you work with foundations? Here’s a guide to doing it well.
- When students on one campus found out a classmate was a white supremacist, they were alarmed. But their professor saw a teaching opportunity.

Spotlight on a study.

You’ve probably heard about Ta-Nehisi Coates’s latest piece on President Obama, in The Atlantic. Cited in the story is a Brookings Institution study about the racial disparity in college students' debt. Here are some takeaways from the report:

- In 2008, black graduates who borrowed money had $52,726 of debt, on average, while their white counterparts had $28,006.
- About 45 percent of the black-white debt gap is attributable to graduate-school borrowing. Black graduates are about twice as likely as white ones to rack up grad-school debt.
- The gap isn’t explained by parental income or education levels. In fact, the student-debt gap in terms of race is five times as large as it is in terms of parental education.

Liberal learning under siege.

From The Chronicle’s Jenny Ruark:

Now that we have a post-truth president-elect who openly disdains qualities fostered by liberal education – you know, critical thinking, intercultural knowledge, empathy, evidence-based decision making – how do we make the case for it?

“We need to restore public trust,” says Lynn Pasquerella, who took the helm of the Association of American Colleges & Universities in July and stopped by our offices this week. First, she says, college leaders must see that they’ve been complicit in their own demise: “We need to pay attention to the real concerns of people outside the academy, and to the ways in which certain voices have been marginalized,” whether the voices of racial minorities or political minorities.

Check our site in the coming days for an interview with Ms. Pasquerella.

Comings and goings.

- Gregory S. Woodward, president of Carthage College, in Wisconsin, will lead the University of Hartford, in Connecticut.
- Robert Goldberg, chief operating officer at Barnard College, in New York, was appointed its interim president.
- Daniel W. Eck, president of Lakeland University, in Wisconsin, plans to resign in January to serve as deputy director of the Sarasota Museum of Art, in Florida. David Black, a former president of Lakeland, was appointed its interim president.
- Ann Britt, president of Martin Community College, in North Carolina, plans to retire in March after nearly 17 years at the helm.
Footnote.

From The Chronicle’s Nadia Dreid and Shannon Najmabadi:

In the weeks since the election, we’ve collected reports of nearly 80 incidents reflecting campus climates across the country. One interesting dimension to this exercise is that nearly 20 of them specifically invoke the president-elect — in a few cases by echoing his rhetoric, but generally simply his name. “Trump!” has been shouted at fellow students or emblazoned across an academic building, sometimes accompanied by slurs or swastikas, but often standing alone. Some people, it seems, consider the president-elect’s name enough of a statement on its own.

Graffiti and verbal harassment have been some of the most common incidents we’ve recorded, but occasionally there has been violence. In at least 10 incidents, some form of violent or unwanted contact has occurred. At least three Muslim students have reported being attacked or threatened with violence if they did not agree to remove their hijabs.

Racist and white-supremacist fliers have also cropped up at colleges nationwide, and a white-supremacist group called American Vanguard has seemed to claim credit for many of them. The group’s website describes a “Northern Propaganda Campaign” that involves “placing posters” from coast to coast. And many of the recent posters are identical to those offered as downloads on the group’s website. Sample messages? “Imagine a Muslim-Free America” and “This Land is Our Land! American Vanguard For a white America.”

A final trend, and a more uplifting one, is that the incidents tend to be met with support from people on campuses. The University of California at Berkeley’s Muslim Student Association, for example, organized a public prayer after the election that drew a crowd of observers. Ibrahim Chehade, a first-year student there, said that when the prayer had concluded and he opened his eyes, the crowd applauded.

Mr. Chehade posted to Twitter several pictures of the public prayer and later retweeted some of the responses his photos had received. Among them? “America is not your country. It never has been and never will be yours.” But in an interview about a week later, Mr. Chehade noted that his tweet had also attracted thousands of likes, comments, or retweets, only a handful of which were negative.

— Andy and Fernanda

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