**PRESS RELEASE**

**(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)**

**Higher Education Disruptions and Enablers in a New World of Learning**

“*Widespread higher education closures will come as a result of underlying currents that have been accelerated during the COVID-19 lockdown.”*

New York, July 16th, 2020;

 The higher education industry is at the cusp of a fundamental market shift due to the converging market forces of remote learning technology, changing global demographics, and the soaring cost of a degree according to a new research report by M Capital Group. US and UK universities in particular are coping with population stagnation across much of the OECD, declining government funding for higher education that have spiked tuition fees, and more uncertain political climates that are eroding the general U.S’ appeal to foreign students.

 Today, global Higher Education is a US$ 65.4 billion industry and is expected to grow at a CAGR of 8.25% to $117.9 billion from 2020 to 2027. This growth in demand, is expected to be propelled by several factors, mainly a contracting job market in which discouraged job seekers will likely pursue higher education to remain competitive and an increasing public and private support over the next five years that are likely to push down high tuition fees. However, M capital Group, see enabling opportunities from technology, active international development and brand building, within a rather bearish outlook on the global higher education industry despite the COVID-19 pandemic and several challenges that have persisted in the industry over the last five years.

 Despite institutions becoming increasingly globalized, the COVID-19 pandemic’s broad and indeterminate impact on global mobility is expected to have a larger impact in deviating away international students, who have contributed more than US$42 billion to the U.S economy. As demand for education services under the COVID-19 pandemic undergo a rather uncertain recovery, traditional educational institutions that are continuously innovating and can monetize virtual platforms to offer learning access worldwide are well-positioned to perform better. Nonetheless, the tailwinds that these challenges represent might just substantially hamper the outlook of smaller and weaker medium sized universities. Thus, widespread closures of weaker universities are projected, as a result of underlying currents that have been accelerated during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Christian Mouchbahani, Managing Partner at M Capital Group noted: “Higher education is at crossroads, particularly at the lower-to-middle end of the teaching spectrum. Top higher education institutions have accelerated their online offering at an accelerated pace during COVID-19. While the taboo of large technology companies partnering with major leading universities is a reality. COVID-19 is simply an enabler and disrupter for these trends.”

**Please find attached M Capital Group Research Report: Higher Education – Current Times and Outlook**

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