Working with a partner from your college, discuss the following questions: (10 minutes total)

• What kinds of careers will you be preparing your students for in 2030? (What will your graduates be doing at work?).
• How might these activities be different from what they do today as a result of the challenges and opportunities you discussed?

Response Format: Group the ideas you have identified according to whether they are similar to or different from the past.

Similarities in what graduates will be doing in the future, compared with today

• Future graduates will continue to draw upon the fundamental knowledge base and methods of their fields. Architects and engineers will continue to design creative solutions to (new) problems. Scientists will continue to conduct experiments in pursuit of a deeper understanding of natural phenomena. Humanists will continue to use literature, philosophy, and the arts to explore the human condition. Managers will continue to be concerned with innovation, efficiency and productivity in their organizations. Teachers and health care workers will continue to serve their clients.
• All future graduates will continue to draw upon essential skills for working with people – critical thinking, communication, collaboration, leadership, and cultural competency.

Differences in what graduates will be doing in the future, compared with today

• Future graduates’ lives and careers will be different from today – but by extending current trends. They are likely to move from one career to another over their adult lives, learning new competencies and adapting as they proceed, and conducting both professional business and personal affairs remotely, electronically.
• The next generation is likely to be using data and technology more extensively and in new ways. Where work in some fields began to substitute technology for labor during the industrial age, other fields, such as agriculture and the humanities, are now seeing this happen in another more significant way. Future communications and technology will supplant at least some transportation needs (think of three-dimensional printing, for example, not just telecommuting).
• Future graduates will be living and working in a world that is more complex, interdependent, uncertain and risky. Thus, their work will involve more interdisciplinary knowledge, with more diverse teams, to address complex problems. At least some graduates will be using their problem-solving and systems thinking skills in jobs that directly tackle resource constraints, environmental vulnerabilities, geo-political uncertainties, and threats to personal or social safety and security.
• Graduates in all fields will be more directly affected by issues of social equity and justice, as well as ethical issues brought on by both technological change and global conditions.