Myth Busters:

Separating Fact from Fiction about Higher Education in the West

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Myth or Reality

- Myth: “a fiction or half-truth esp. one that forms part of the ideology of a society.”
- What we have come to believe
  - Not always wrong
  - Not always fact-free
  - But often not based on current evidence
**Myth or Reality -- #1**

Not to Worry: The U.S. is the best educated country in the World

### On Quality

- The market test – foreign students
  - 475,169 (2001/NCES) in the U.S. – 4%
    - 225,722 in the U.K. – 11%
    - 199,132 in Germany – 10%
    - 147,402 in France – 7%
    - 64,103 in Russia – 2%
    - 63,637 in Japan – 2%
**Myth or Reality -- #1**

*Not to Worry: The U.S. is the best educated country in the World*

- **On Quality**
  - Research Productivity
    - Shanghai Jiao Tong University Ratings
      - 18 of top 25 -- U.S. Universities
  - Student Learning –
    - We can claim #1
    - So can everyone else
    - We don’t measure this – the *Measuring Up* incomplete
  - OECD – PISA Like Measures Being Contemplated
Myth or Reality -- #1
Not to Worry: The U.S. is the best educated country in the World

- **On Quantity**
  - High on initial participation
    - 56% go on immediately after graduation (NCHEMS/NCES)
    - 65-70% within 5 years
  - Or maybe not
    - Only 70% graduate \[70\% \times 65\% = 46\%\]
    - 46% of 18-24 year olds have participated in postsecondary education (NCES/Census)

- **Lousy on Throughput**
  - 16th of 27 OECD Countries Measured in Degrees/100 Students Enrolled
International Competitive/Declining Performance: Percent of Adults with an Associate or Higher Degree

Source: Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development, American Community Survey via NCHEMS
Myth or Reality # 1-A
Not to Worry: The West Leads The Rest

- On Quality
  - Proof of the Pudding on Research:
    - 7 of the top 25 in the West – Stanford (2), UC Berkeley (3), Cal Tech (5), UCLA (11), UCSD (12), UW (14), UCSF (16)
  - The Rest
    - East: 7 (1 quasi-public, 6 privates)
    - Mid West: 3 (2 publics, one private)
    - South: 1 (private)
  - Evidence on Student Learning
    - Still incomplete
- On Quantity
Differential National Performance:
Differences in College Attainment (Associate and Higher) Between Young and Older Adults—Percent of Adults with College Degrees

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census via NCHEMS
Myth or Reality #2
Our Western tradition of low tuition has kept College affordable

- How we compare on tuition
  - 2-Year Institutions Tuition & Fees (06-07)
    - US: $2,272
    - WICHE: $2,237
    - WICHE w/o CA: $2,345
  - 4-Year Institutions Tuition & Fees (06-07)
    - US: $5,836
    - WICHE: $4,351
Myth or Reality #2

Our Western tradition of low tuition has kept College affordable

- But tuition isn’t the half of it (literally).
- The Student’s Budget is about
  - $12,000 for 2-Year College Students
  - $15,000 for 4-Year College Students
- Ergo, need-based financial aid is essential for true affordability
Myth or Reality #3
Our Western tradition of low tuition has kept College affordable

And how does the West measure up on need-based financial aid
- Not so Well
  - U.S.: $446
  - WICHE: $386

- The Champions
  - Washington -- $695
  - California -- $514

- The Emerging Champions
  - Hawaii, New Mexico, Oregon, and Wyoming

- The Promising Prospects
  - Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Utah
  - Blending Need with Merit based on preparing well [CO & WA]

- NO; WE’RE NOT PARTICULARLY AFFORDABLE
Myth or Reality #4
We’re also more frugal, so we get more for our buck

- That depends – some do, some don’t
### Performance Relative to Total Funding per FTE – Overall Index Scores for State Higher Education Systems (NCHEMS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Index Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>127.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>136.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>136.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>136.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>136.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
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<td>Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>96.3</td>
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<td>Kansas</td>
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<td>North Dakota</td>
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</table>

*Note: The chart illustrates the overall index scores for state higher education systems, with higher scores indicating better performance relative to total funding per FTE.*
Student Pipeline Result, 2002

Performance vs. Total Funding Per FTE

AL
AK
AZ
AR
CA
CO
CT
DE
GA
HI
IL
IN
IA
KS
KY
LA
ME
MD
MA
MS
MT
NE
NV
NJ
NC
ND
OH
OK
OR
PA
RI
SC
SD
UT
VT
VA
WA
WI
FL
ID
MI
MN
MO
NH
NM
NY
TN
TX
WV
WY
US
Myth or Reality #4
We’re also more frugal, so we get more for our buck

- And Cheap Isn’t Always Efficient
  - Can mean Leaving Money On The Table
    - Bad News
      - California Community Colleges leave substantial federal Pell & Tax Credits unused
  - Good News
    - Nevada and Hawaii got smart & modified policies
    - Oregon built federal component in, and is now benefiting
Myth or Reality #5
Not to worry – not everyone needs to go to college

- **Myth #5-A:** Not everyone needs to go on to postsecondary education.
  - True but large majority need to:
    - 55% to 80% of future jobs will require some postsecondary credential
    - ACT says only about one-quarter adequately prepared to succeed today

- **Myth #5-B:** If all aren’t going, all don’t have to take a rigorous curriculum
  - ACT research – skills for success in college = skills for success in a living wage/non college job.

- One solution: A rigorous default curriculum
Myth or Reality #6
The only problem is the diminution of State Support

- Early 21st Century Was A Bad Time
  - Between 02 & 04, 12 of the 15 WICHE states experienced a decrease in state appropriations to higher education.
  - Four states – Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, and Oregon – experienced cuts of greater than 10%
- But not so bad recently.
  - Between 05 & 06, every WICHE state received more.
  - And most received substantially more than “inflation”
Myth or Reality #6
The only problem is the diminution of State Support

- But we all know the states contribute a smaller share
  - The math game:
    - Increase the denominator (all resources) and the same numerator (the states piece) yields a smaller state share.
  - The “State Resources” shell game
    - % of total state resources has declined
      - WICHE: 12.6% in ’96 / 11.6% in ’06
      - Down in 12 of 15 States
    - Ratio of H.E. approp to Tax Revenues
      - WICHE: 10.4% in ’94 / 11.8% in ’03
      - Up in 8 of 15 States
Myth or Reality #6
The only problem is the diminution of State Support

- When Myth Meets Reality – The Legitimate Case That State Support Has Declined
- Funding Per Student has declined

Note: Constant 2006 dollars adjusted by SHEEO Higher Education Cost Adjustment. Source: SHEEO SHEF
Myth or Reality #7 (the last, I promise)
No worries, we have weathered the storm

The Driving Factors are
- The Economy
- The Demographics
Public High School Graduates in the WICHE Region, by Race/Ethnicity, 1993-94 to 2004-05 (Actual), 2005-06 to 2021-22 (Projected)
That’s all there is,

There is no more.

Thanks for listening and now for sharing.