

April 2007 Educational Equity Brief

1. "UC, CSU Reach Again For Students' Wallets" by Tanya Schevitz and Jim Doyle, SF Chronicle, March 15, 2007.

Newly approved tuition and fee increases for the 2007-08 school year for University of California and California State University:

- **CSU 10% undergraduate tuition and fee increase.**
- **UC 7% undergraduate tuition and fee increase.**

2. Hamilton College announced that it is **eliminating all merit-based awards** and switching that aid to need-based aid in anticipation of admitting more needy students in the future. -- Inside Higher Ed, March 16, 2007, <http://insidehighered.com/news/2007/03/16/hamilton>

3. Davidson College announced that it's **eliminating loans and that they will meet full need.** -- Inside Higher Ed, March 19, 2007, <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2007/03/19/davidson>

4. "California's Low Tuition Model Questioned" by D. Lederman "Inside Higher Ed" March 7, 2007.

California community colleges concentration on low fees rather than overall affordability is brought into question. The fees only represent 5% of the cost of attendance, making affordability appear more within reach than reality. The true costs of attendance are often miscommunicated to and misperceived by students. About 80% of community college students work, and those who do work on average 32 hours a week (23 for dependent students). This is significantly more than the 15-20 hours of work per week that experts recommend. Work beyond the recommendation has a negative impact on academic success.

5. "Colleges Hiring Lenders to Field Queries on Aid" By Jonathon Glater, NY Times, March 29, 2007.

Article exposes that some colleges have hired loan lenders such as Nelnet and Sallie Mae to answer student's questions about financial aid. Of particular importance is that the private lenders do not identify themselves as such, and appear to be employees of the school's financial aid office. Schools are saying that they simply do not have the resources to answer all of their students' questions.

6. "Scholarship fund to help blacks go to UCLA" By Rebecca Trounson, LA Times, March 29, 2007.

This year's UCLA freshmen class of 4,800 includes only 100 black students. Prominent black alumni are alarmed at the diminishing number of black students, and have banded together to raise scholarship funds. **They are giving at least \$1,000 to every black applicant who is admitted and enrolls next fall.**

7. Important points from "College Participation Rates for Students from Low Income Families by State 1992-93 to 2004-05" by Postsecondary Education Opportunity, February 2007. The college participation rate for the 18-24 low-income population increased from 1993 to 1999, but has decreased since that 1999 peak. At its peak, the low-income college participation rate was 75% the rate of college participation for the entire 18-24 population. In 2005, the most current data, the low-income college going rate was only 67% the rate of the entire 18-24 population. **In California the low-income college participation rate is 22.1% whereas the US rate is 25.4%.**

8. "Paying By Program" -- Inside Higher Education, March 26, 2007,
<http://insidehighered.com/news/2007/03/26/tuition>

More and more colleges are beginning to make up for stagnation in state funds by **differentiating fees and tuition by major**. Students in more costly undergraduate programs, such as fine arts and engineering, are charged higher fees than students in less-costly programs. Additionally, some schools may charge students in departments that yield higher earning potential, higher tuition. Critics say this practice may deter students, particularly low-income students, from pursuing certain fields.

9. Interesting statistics from "States Give Failing Grade to Graduation Rates" by Ben Arnoldy, CS Monitor.com, March 15, 2007.

- Two-thirds of college students must borrow money to pay for their education. Inflation-adjusted average loan debt has jumped from \$8,000 ten years ago to \$17,250.
- If the Pell Grant program had kept pace with the rise in tuition, the average Pell Grant would be around \$10,000.
- Of the low-income students who entered four-year colleges in 1996, only 50% graduated within six years, compared to 74% of students from households making \$70,000 or more.

10. One of the main five strands at the **Ed Trust** conference in November will be "community advocacy" -- "Community-based organizations can be powerful agents of change. With the right planning and execution, they can provoke schools and school systems to release data, change instructional and other school based practices, and even amend district- and state- wide policies that can lead to big improvements in student achievement. Successful community organization that have had successful education improvement and gap-closing campaigns at the school, district or state level will showcase their strategies so others can learn from them.