An Overview of Higher Education in the United States: Diversity, Access and the Role of the Marketplace

Abstract
U.S. higher education borrows its structure from both the British undergraduate college and German research university, but its character is profoundly influenced by major philosophical beliefs that shape American public life. During the 20th century, economic and social changes transformed higher education into a primary gateway to the middle-class, and women and minorities made inroads against longstanding exclusion from mainstream higher education. Americans came to view broad access to higher education as a necessary component of the nation’s ideal as a “land of opportunity.” In this regard, U.S. higher education reflects essential elements of the American character: independence, suspicion of government, ambition, inclusiveness, and competitiveness. This publication describes the major characteristics of American higher education and important issues that challenge it, linking back as appropriate to these essential philosophical underpinnings.

URI
http://hdl.handle.net/10919/84029

Collections
Higher Education Policy for Minorities in the United States [650]

License: Attribution-NoDerivatives 4.0 International

Related items
Showing items related by title, author, creator and subject.

A Lost Decade in Higher Education Funding State Cuts Have Driven up Tuition and Reduced Quality
Mitchell, Michael; Leachman, Michael; Masterson, Kathleen (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2017-08-01)
A decade since the Great Recession hit, state spending on public colleges and universities remains well below historic levels, despite recent increases. Overall state funding for public two- and four-year colleges in the ... 

Helping or Hindering? State Policies & Latino College Completion
Santiago, Deborah A.; Calderón G., Emily (Excelencia in Education, 2015-03-01)
With support from the Ford Foundation, Excelencia in Education conducted data analysis and preliminary policy audits in three key states--California, Colorado and Texas-- to consider existing state policies most obviously ... 

Higher Education in California: An introduction to the state’s public colleges & universities
The Campaign for College Opportunity (The Campaign for College Opportunity, 2016-07-01)
This report illustrates the state of California's public colleges & universities. It includes the governance, funding, financial aid, accountability and system coordination.
From the 1800s to the late 1990s, the United States had an undisputable reputation for ingenuity and invention. That status has faded over time as globalization has made innovation a worldwide pursuit. 3. Diversity as a Competitive Advantage. Hand-in-hand with increasing our competitiveness as a nation comes a chance to increase diversity in the STEM fields. This program vets existing STEM educators against the highest standards of performance in the classroom. Educators chosen to become Master Teachers are incentivized to serve as mentors and role models within their local communities, share their best practices with other teachers on a state and national level, and grow their own capacity as STEM leaders. 5. Improved Economic Growth & Prosperity. An Overview of Higher Education in the United States: Diversity, Access and the Role of the Marketplace (pp. 1-14). Retrieved from http://www.acenet.edu/. Fulbright Commission. (n.d.). U.S. Higher Education System. Retrieved from http://www.fulbright.be/study-in-the-us/graduate-studies/us-higher-education-system/. Knodel, L. (2011). The structure of the US higher education on the modern stage of the society development. Retrieved from http://social-science.com.ua/article/412. SAT scores still play a significant role in determining who has access to these institutions. Many see the SAT as one of the most important parts of a college application and believe (incorrectly) that a higher score is equal to greater intelligence. Many want the SAT to be the determining arbiter of who is admitted. In 2014, The Posse Foundation took a look at the top-ranked colleges and universities in the United States to determine how many Black and Hispanic students they would need to admit each year if they were to reflect the percentage of Blacks and Hispanics in the American population.