

# College Bound

ISSUES & TRENDS FOR THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ADVISOR

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## Welcome To Year 36!

*Editor's Note:* After unprecedented disruptions to your traditional learning schedules and activities last year, *COLLEGE BOUND* hopes this fall issue finds you returning to a relatively normal educational routine.

Yet despite the resumption of face-to-face learning and counseling in most places, the persistent threat of this pandemic means further challenges may lie ahead. That's why *CB* is more determined than ever to deliver

to you the latest news on college admissions and financial aid and other current trends in higher education. We will remain online and you'll find us the first week of each month during the school year.

At the same time, look for additional links to news articles of interest on college admissions and financial aid posted as our "Admissions Story-of-the-Day." Have a great, safe and healthy school year! ■

## Admissions Watch

A SURVEY from Course Hero revealed that almost 40 percent of current college students changed their post-graduation plans due to the pandemic, including their course of study, career plans or even educational institutions.

Here's how things were shaping up as *CB* went to press.

**Brown's Wait List.** In recent years, Brown U. in Rhode Island typically placed 900 to 1,000 students on its wait list, and admitted 200 to 300 students off the list. The Class of 2024 included 194 members who came off its wait list, while 127 members of the Class of 2023 were originally taken from its list.

This year, 69 percent of all students who received an offer from Brown accepted it, for a record high yield, 3 percent more than last year. A waitlist spot was offered to 1,200 students, according to the *Brown Daily Herald*. However, the high yield is why Brown accepted only 34 students from this year's waitlist.

Logan Powell, dean of admission, explained that in pulling students off its wait list, Brown considers the makeup of the class that has already committed, gender balance, academics, diversity of perspective, geographic diversity and other factors. Brown doesn't rank students on its wait list.

**Denver Attracted Over 22,000 Apps.** Residence halls at the U. of Denver will be filled with 1,650 first-year students this fall.

*continued on page 2*

## Fall Outlook: Toward a Post-Pandemic Future

HOW DID THE NATION'S higher education institutions respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2020-2021 school year?

"We showed that universities could adjust quickly," argued Michael Crow, president of Arizona State U., when he addressed an online session, "The Shape of the College of the Future," that kicked off REMOTE: The Connected Faculty Summit, this summer, sponsored by ASU. "It turns out that universities are highly adaptive, technology-driven, scientifically-enabled institutions that can weather complicated moments in time in history...We all used technology in new ways during the pandemic."

One example of that flexibility was the State U. of New York which converted 18,000 in-person courses to online classes in just two weeks.

"We've learned that we have to keep an open mind and understand that uncertainty doesn't have to be a bad thing," added Freeman A. Hrabowski, president of the U. of Maryland-Baltimore County, at the Summit. He observed that, "We are constantly evolving and should not be comfortable where we are, and we

shouldn't be thinking about returning to the good old days prior to COVID. We can be so much better than we were before."

He added that, "Amazingly, faculty evaluations for remote learning for the past semester were actually higher than those for the same courses presented face-to-face." Some professors found that courses offered online were intimate teaching experiences.

"We're going to be using technology more and more," he said, "but our driving forces are people—students, faculty, staff and alumni—and pushing the envelope in our knowledge."

**Yet Challenges Continue.** By mid-summer, a new Delta variant of COVID-19 complicated the situation. The Center for Disease Control issued new guidance urging even vaccinated people to wear masks while indoors in areas of the country where there is "substantial or high" coronavirus transmission. Universities such as Duke and Tulane responded by mandating masks for faculty, staff and students this fall. (An updated list of colleges and universities that require students to wear masks in the classroom can be found at [www.collegeboundnews.com](http://www.collegeboundnews.com).)

*continued on page 2*

## INSIDE

- Financial Matters
- Counselor's Bookshelf
- Enrollment Trends
- Curriculum Capsules
- News You Can Use

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## FALL OUTLOOK

*continued from page 1*

edweek.org/policy-politics/which-states-ban-mask-mandates-in-schools-and-which-require-masks/2021/08.)

At press time, almost all colleges and universities opened for face-to-face instruction this fall. But there are exceptions. For example, one week before classes were scheduled to begin on campus, Stanislaus State University in California shifted all its classes online. Should the situation worsen, other colleges are prepared to go back to online instruction. And the college visitation policies of last year for prospective students would likely go back into effect as well. ■

## ADMISSIONS WATCH

*continued from page 1*

They were selected for the Class of 2025 from more than 22,000 applicants. The new students posted average high school GPA's of 3.71, ACT scores of 29.1 and SAT scores of 1286. About 70 percent of the students come from outside of Colorado, including from 41 different nations. Students of color make up 28 percent of the new class, while first-generation students account for 16 percent. The first-year students will be joined by 170 transfer students.

**Howard's Larger-Than-Usual First-Year Class.** Howard U. in the nation's capital expects about 2,300 first-year students on campus this fall compared to last year's 1,834 first-year students who participated in courses online. Part of the allure is that Howard claims Vice President Kamala D. Harris as one of its alumna, and that she is an advocate for her university and other Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The large number of freshmen, who along with sophomores are given priority to live on campus, has sent many upperclassmen "scrambling" for housing in an expensive market, according to *The Washington Post*.

**Sweet Briar Rebounds.** "Ever since 2015, our donor base, namely the alumnae, has been incredibly supportive of the vision and direction of the college," said Meredith Woo, president. In fact, Sweet Briar, the all women's college in Virginia, which was on the verge of extinction, exceeded its fund-raising and enrollment goals this year.

Last year, the college enrolled 342 women. This year, it's on track to enroll more than 450. And President Woo says the school hopes to double that enrollment in the next five years. "It's the quality that matters and Sweet Briar has always been a small college delivering superlative education to young women in small classrooms and we will always be faithful to that vision," Woo said.

## California Admits a Record Number of Students

The U. of California admitted a record number of students for Fall 2021, 11 percent more than last year, rising from 119,054 to 132,353 new students. The number of new freshmen also reached an all-time high with 84,223 students admitted, up 5.34 percent from 2020.

The number of transfer students, 28,453, was 1.35 percent, more than in 2020. Most transfers are Californians returning home. One explanation for more applications this year is that the UC system became test optional. UC also admitted more California community college transfer students than ever.

Some 43 percent of admitted freshmen come from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. Latinx make up the largest ethnic group, this year up 9 percent, while the number of admitted African American students

grew by 15.6 percent. About 45 percent of UC freshmen will be first-generation college students.

Campuses with the greatest freshman growth are UC Davis, up 19.2 percent, UC Irvine, up 6.9 percent and UC San Diego, up 6 percent.

"As the data makes clear, UC is continuing to honor its commitment to guarantee admission to high performing California high school students and providing a clear pathway for talented community college students to join us," said Han Mi Yoon-Wu, executive director of undergraduate admissions.

Meanwhile, U. of California Regents announced a 4.2 percent increase in tuition and fees, bringing the total to \$12,570. But the increase will only apply to undergraduates entering Fall 2022. ■

**Trinity's Admits 36 Percent.** This fall, Trinity C. in Connecticut matriculated 553 members of the Class of 2025, as well as 20 students who deferred during last fall's COVID semester. The new students were selected from a pool of 5,697 students. Students of color make up 23 percent of the new class. A record 83 percent of applicants chose not to submit standardized test scores. About 60 percent of Trinity students receive financial aid.

"Our choices [of new students] were driven by the strength of character the students demonstrated, along with their academic motivation and preparedness," said Adrienne Oddi, dean of admissions and financial aid. "We closely examined student transcripts down to the individual courses students took, while paying careful attention to those students' presentations of themselves and the advocacy they were receiving from their communities."

**Washington U. Substituted Videos for Test Scores.** With test sites closed and submitting scores made optional, Washington U. in St. Louis decided to allow students to submit a 90-second video to help the admissions staff learn more about each student. Students were not required to do so.

Overall, Wash U. attracted 33,634 applicants, 5,685 more students than last year and the most in school history. In the end, its acceptance rate for the Class of 2025 fell to just 13 percent, down three points from last year.

Wash U. also created a special financial circumstances form for both applicants and current students. "We created a simpler, more streamlined way for students and families to request reevaluation of their financial assistance awards," said Mike Runiewicz, assistant vice provost and director of student financial services.

**Applications Surge in United Kingdom.**

Applications for undergraduate college seats across the United Kingdom have surged. Some 311,000 UK 18-year-olds applied by the June deadline, 10 percent more than last year. About 50 percent of Northern Ireland "school leavers" (the equivalent to U.S. high school grads) applied for university places, while only 44 percent of English students applied. A total of 682,000 students have applied for seats in the nation's universities, 400,000 of them are women.

Universities have responded to the increased demand by offering 20 percent more admittance since 2019. "These numbers show the clear demand for undergraduate study and apprenticeships is growing, rising significantly during the pandemic," said Clare Marchant, the chief executive of Ucas which oversees the application process.

## GRAD SCHOOLS APPLICATIONS UP

**Law School Apps Up Dramatically.** Applications to the nation's 200 law schools tracked by the Law School Admission Council jumped by 28 percent between 2020 and 2021, reaching the highest levels since 2011. That means competition to earn a spot in one of the law schools will be much greater this year. But those who graduate and go on to work for one of the larger law firms may be rewarded with starting salaries of as much as \$205,000.

**Medical Schools Apps Up, Too.** Meanwhile, applications to medical school reached an all-time high last year according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

**Business School Apps Also Grow.** Finally, applications to business schools increased by 2.4 percent this year, reversing a 3.1 percent decline in 2019, according to the Graduate Management Admission Council. ■

# Fall Financial Matters

**H.S. Students Change Plans.** Nearly half of recent public high school graduates who are not attending college or pursuing a career and technical education would have attended if they'd had adequate financial aid, according to a summer survey by the Horatio Alger Association. Seven out of 10 students who do receive financial aid said that aid was a deciding factor in their ability to enroll in higher education this fall.

The survey also found that four in 10 students "now need more financial aid than they did before the pandemic, and one in seven who did not previously require aid need it now." Just as disturbing, one in six students not attending college or a career and technical education program "had no access to financial aid information resources."

Yet 80 percent of the college bound students in the survey said they are "determined." About 65 percent said they are "optimistic," 63 percent are "confident," while only 23 percent say they are "disappointed" by their prospects and the college COVID situation.

**FAFSA Apps Down 4.8 Percent.** A quarter of a million fewer high school students from the Classes of 2020 and 2021 filled out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This stat is one indicator of how badly the pandemic derailed the path of the nation's students. The high school Class of 2021 filled out 4.8 fewer FAFSA applications than last year's class, as of July 1. Only an estimated 53 percent of the Class of 2021 had filled out the application by that date, according to the National College Attainment Network.

**Teacher Financial Aid Program Streamlined.** After years of complaints about administrative problems, the U.S. Dept. of Education has streamlined reporting and decision processes for eligibility to the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program. TEACH provides federal financial assistance to students who agree to work for four years as teachers in low-income, underserved school districts after they graduate.

These students received grants that do not have to be repaid, rather than student loans. If they fail to fulfill their obligation, their grants are converted to loans.

**Feds Reduce Audits.** The U.S. Dept. of Ed also announced that it is temporarily relaxing its audit of students who rely on federal grants and loans to pay for school. Rather, it will focus its verification process

on finding identity theft and fraud for the 2021-2022 Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

"We need to ensure students have the most straightforward path to acquiring the financial aid they need to enroll in college and continue their path to a degree," said Richard Cordray, head of the federal student aid office.

## LOCAL INITIATIVES

**Charting the Future.** The Lilly Endowment has directed millions of dollars to Indiana's 38 college and universities to "engage in thoughtful discernment about the future of their institutions and advanced strategic planning and implementation efforts to address key challenges and opportunities." For example, Butler U. is using its \$38 million to expand its online network to "address the needs of both adult learners and employers."

**Akron Tuition Free For Local Pell Students.** The U. of Akron in Ohio announced that it is now tuition free to Pell Grant students from six local counties. The Zips Affordability Scholarship is the university's first step toward an all need-based financial aid system, according to the *Akron Beacon Journal*. Akron's enrollment plunged by 7 percent during the pandemic.

**Ohio U. Offers In-State Tuition to West Virginians.** Beginning this fall, graduates from West Virginia high schools can attend Ohio U., including Ohio U. Southern, paying in-state tuition, thus saving almost \$10,000, according to *Herald-Dispatch*.

**West Texas A & M Provides Hope.** A new Hope Scholarship means \$180,000 annually is available to "the state's... first-generation students and students from low-income families."

**Wilberforce Eliminates Senior Debt.** Graduates from the Classes of 2020 and 2021 at Wilberforce U. in Ohio received exciting news when President Elbert Anthony Pinkard informed them that they would not have to pay back any loans to the school. Thanks to the United Negro Fund and Jack and Jill, Inc., more than \$375,000 in student debt was wiped off the books. Students will still have to pay off any federal loans. ■

## COUNSELOR'S BOOKSHELF

*An Inconvenient Minority: The Attack on Asian American Excellence and the Fight for Meritocracy* by Kenny XU; Diversion Books; ISBN-13: 978-1635767568.

*Game On: Why College Admission Is Rigged and How to Beat the System* by Susan F. Paterno; St. Martin's Press; ISBN: 9781250622655; \$14.99.

*The Attack on Higher Education: the Dissolution of the American University* by Ronald G. Musto; Cambridge U. Press; ISBN: 9781108559355;

\$24.99. (Available in October.)

### New Websites

• **AccessScholarships.com** is a new website cofounded by a 2020 college graduate Ayden Berkey.

• **www.personalfinanceanalyst.com/find-colleges/** is a new search engine that can help students find programs, admissions, cost, results and more from 5,800 colleges.

• **Implicit Bias Toolkit.** The National Asso-

ciation of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) has published an "Implicit Bias Toolkit" that "offers best practices to financial aid administrators to help address biases and policies related to institutional forms, communication, cost of attendance, scholarship, student worker programs, verification and professional judgment."

"It really challenges assumptions, challenges those biases and helps direct people on critical steps to take to neutralize some of those forces," said Christina Tangelakis, associate dean of student financial aid services at Glendale C.C., and co-author of the toolkit. For more information, see [www.NASFAA.org](http://www.NASFAA.org). ■

## ENROLLMENT TRENDS

**Pandemic Enrollment Declines.** In Fall 2020, total college enrollment dropped by 6.8 percent. Also, the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center reported that of the 2.6 million students who entered college as a first-time freshman in Fall 2019, only 74 percent returned to college for their second year (Fall 2020). “This rate represents a pandemic-related, unprecedented one-year drop of two percentage points to this important early student success indicator.”

Community colleges showed the steepest persistence rate (freshman to sophomore year) decline over last year of all institutional sectors, down 3.5 percentage points to 58.5 percent.

Asian Americans showed a persistence rate of 86.5 percent, white students 79.3 percent, Latinx students 68.6 percent and black students 64.9 percent.

**Spring Dip.** The overall spring college enrollment fell to 16.9 million students from 17.5 million, marking a one-year decline of 3.5 percent, according to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. It was the largest decline in year-over-year percentage change since 2011.

Undergraduate enrollment dropped 4.9 percent or 727,000 students. Meanwhile, graduate enrollment jumped by 4.6 percent, adding more than 124,000 students. Overall, enrollment in the nation’s 1,400 community colleges was down Spring 2021 by 9.5 percent from last year, or 476,000 fewer students. More than 65 percent of total undergraduate losses occurred in the community colleges.

“The final estimates for spring enrollment confirm the pandemic’s severe impact on students and colleges this year,” said Doug Shapiro, executive director of the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. “How long that impact lasts will depend on how many of the missing students, particularly at community colleges, will be able to make their way back to school for the coming fall.

**Federal Courts Uphold Affirmative Action.** Federal Judge Robert Pitman of the Western District of Texas dismissed two lawsuits against the U. of Texas at Austin over its admissions policy. The judge ruled that the plaintiffs brought arguments that were already reviewed and rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court, thus upholding UT-Austin’s admissions policies. ■

## STATE NEWS

**Idaho’s Pandemic Declines.** Many of Idaho colleges chose to maintain face-to-face learning last school year. Perhaps as a result, enrollment dropped 8.7 percent over an 18-month period. For example, at Boise State U., spring enrollment declined by 5.3 percent. At the U. of Idaho, spring enrollment declined 11.5 percent. At Idaho State U., spring enrollment was down 9.3 percent. At Lewis-Clark’s State C., spring enrollment dipped 15.1 percent. Total spring enrollment in all of Idaho’s two- and four-year schools reached 53,391 students.

**California Community Colleges Compete with For-Profits.** California black, Native American and Pacific Islander students are increasingly choosing for-profit institutions rather than enrolling in the state’s community colleges, according to EdSource. That is the case even though the graduation rate for those populations is only slightly more than 10 percent at for-profit institutions, according to federal figures. During the pandemic for-profit institutions saw a 1.5 percent decline in enrollment, while community college enrollment dipped by 12 percent.

Part of the reason for their strength is that for-profits “do a good job of taking the administrative burden off students and easing the

path into their institutions,” Paul Feist, vice chancellor, told EdSource.

**North Dakota Enrollment Increases.** Several colleges in North Dakota have defied the national trend of falling enrollment during the pandemic. For example, Dickinson State U. experienced a 6 percent increase last fall, and a 10-year high summer enrollment this year, according to KXMA-TV in Bismarck. Mark Jastorff, interim vice president, told the station that growth resulted from few COVID-19 restrictions, new programs and a tuition freeze.

**Changing Face of Michigan Small Colleges.** Michigan’s small liberal arts colleges have gone from being 80 percent white in 2010 to 67 percent white in 2019, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Alma C., for example, transitioned from 91 percent white in 2010 to 78 percent in 2019; Adrian C. went from 80 percent white in 2010 to 78 percent white in 2019. Part of the reason for the change is that Michigan has become more racially diverse. Plus, these schools made significant outreaches to diverse communities, with scholarships and financial aid, and by listening to suggestions from minority students on campus. ■

## COVID-19 Relief

**Loans Forgiven.** The Biden administration has forgiven \$500 million in debt owed by 18,000 students who were scammed by the for-profit ITT Technical Institute. In March, the U.S. Department of Education wiped away \$1 billion in federal student debt for 72,000 borrowers from various for-profit colleges.

Colleges and universities across the country are finding ways to use and distribute \$14.5 billion in Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds part of the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act.

**Clark Atlanta Clears Debts.** Clark Atlanta U. declared “canceled and cleared” all student debt owed to the university from Spring 2020 through Summer 2021. Clark Atlanta also discounted tuition and fees for the 2020-2021 and purchased 4,000 laptops for every student.

“We understand these past two years have been emotionally and financially difficult on students and their families...,” said George T. French, Jr., CAU president.

**CUNY Comeback.** The City U. of New York (CUNY) eliminated up to \$125 million in unpaid debt for at least 50,000 students who currently attend or recently graduated. The CUNY Comeback Program is one of the nation’s largest student debt forgiveness plans.

“CUNY students showed their great resilience in the face of the immeasurable hardships they faced over the past 16 months, from employment and income loss to food and housing insecurity, amid an unprecedented health crisis that brought sickness and tragedy to thousands of New York families,” said CUNY Chancellor Felix V. Matos Rodriguez. “This compassionate action will allow CUNY students and recent graduates to move ahead in pursuit of their educational and career objectives without the specter of unpaid tuition and fees.”

**Fairmont State U. Cares.** Fairmont State U. in West Virginia awarded \$1,500 to full-time students and \$1,000 to part-time students with funds that came from the federal CARES Act.

“The plight of the students made us do this,” said Mirta Martin, president. “I have seen the needs of students day in and day out and they want so very much to succeed.... We don’t want our students to have to choose between school and putting food on their table and so this initiative is designed to help them achieve their American dream which will only come through graduation.”

**And in West Virginia.** “We Are Stronger Together,” a special scholarship initiative that targets emergency scholarship dollars has already awarded \$389,000 to West Virginia students-in-need. ■

## CURRICULUM CAPSULES

**Buffalo Adds Five New Programs.** The C. of Arts and Sciences at the U. of Buffalo (SUNY) is launching five new programs for Fall 2021: a B.A. in Global Affairs, B.A. in Philosophy, Politics and Economics, a M.A. in Art & Design for Social Impact, M.A. in Criminology and a M.A. in Global Affairs.

**Butler Launches Three Online Programs.** Butler U. in Indianapolis announced that it will offer three online graduate degrees in partnership with Noodle beginning Spring 2022: a Master of Business Administration, a Master of Science in Data Analytics and a Master of Science in Strategic Communication.

**DePaul Tech Entrepreneur Partnership.** DePaul U. in Chicago launched a partnership with the Prysm Institute, a business incubator. The partners hope to help students and faculty become tech entrepreneurs who can spin off new companies.

**Duquesne Expands Global Health Collaborations.** Duquesne U. in Pittsburgh is expanding its international reach with new cooperative arrangements with universities in the Ukraine, Georgia, Taiwan, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Mexico and Grenada.

“Duquesne’s School of Health Sciences is responding rapidly to the urgent global need for more professional practitioners in health administration and public health, as well as the need for internationally coordinated research and policymaking,” said Dr. Faina Linkov, chair of Health Administration and Public Health.

**Eastern Connecticut’s Hemp Cultivation Program.** Connecticut was the 19th state to make recreational marijuana legal. Now Eastern Connecticut U. has crafted a program to train workers on how to grow it and learn the business. The global hemp business reached \$4.71 billion in 2019. The program is led by a plant biologist.

“I am going to be teaching basic plant biology...with an emphasis on cannabis,” said Bryan Connolly. “There will be demand for graduates who understand the business and policy side of the industry.”

**Lawrence Technical U.’s BS/MS in Business Data Analytics.** Lawrence Technical U. in Michigan now offers two new degree programs; a B.S. and M.S. in Business Data Analytics through its College of Business and Information Technology. According to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the market for

management analysts is expected to grow 11 percent through 2029, with median salaries of \$87,660.

**Quinnipiac’s Three New Environmental B.A.s.** Quinnipiac U. in Connecticut has begun three interdisciplinary programs: a B.S. in environmental science, B.A. in sustainability and environmental policy and a B.A. in environmental studies.

“The design of these three interdisciplinary majors addresses the need to bring deeper, informed understanding to what is unquestionably one of the most critical issues of our day...” said a school official.

**Saint Leo U. Acquires Marymount California.** Saint Leo U. in Florida, which operates 16 campuses across five states, has acquired Marymount California U. Both schools are Catholic liberal arts institutions. While Marymount students will continue with their current programs, after the transition new students will be enrolled at Saint Leo, which is offering some of its online programs to California students during the transition.

“We think that this is a potential model for the future,” said Jeffrey Senese, Saint Leo’s president, “that we would pick up a number of partners this way. We’ve strategically done some market studies across the country and are looking at markets where we don’t have a presence and where we think our brand and our kind of approach makes sense.”

Saint Leo closed 17 of its more than 30 campuses during the pandemic. But its online enrollment surged from 4,000 to 10,000 students last year. Saint Leo recruited its largest first-year class in school history.

**Ivy Tech C.C. and Franklin C. Partnership.** Students in Ivy Tech C.C.’s (in Indiana) Associate Accelerated Program can earn an associate degree in liberal arts in 11 months and then transfer their credits to Franklin C. and complete one of 17 liberal arts bachelor’s degree in another two years. If they work hard, they can graduate with a B.A. in just three years.

**Villa Maria C.’s Motion Design BFA.** “Simply put, Villa Maria’s new Motion Design program combines elements of graphic design and animation,” said Ryan Hartnett, vice president for academic affairs. Villa Maria C. is in Buffalo, N. Y. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for employment in the motion design industry is on track to increase until at least 2029. ■

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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

**Test-Optional Schools Increase.** As a result of the pandemic and other years-long trends, more than 1,600 colleges and universities, or about two thirds of bachelor’s degree-granting institutions, are now test-optional, according to the National Center for Fair and Open Testing (FairTest).

These schools are finding that the policy improves student diversity without impacting the academic quality of these colleges and universities. FairTest believes that schools that continue to use standardized tests are at a relative disadvantage.

“I think eventually the tests that have been used for the last 50-plus years for admission into colleges and universities will either disappear completely or evolve into other metrics universities can use to determine which students can be most successful at their particular institution,” Karen Whitney, interim chancellor at the U. of Illinois, Springfield told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

And according to a Student Loan Hero survey, 51 percent of respondents feel the tests and preparation courses “give wealthier

students a leg up,” at the expense of lower-income families. At the same time, 46 percent of former test takers who are happy with their SAT or ACT scores, paid for prep courses or materials. While 25 percent who were unhappy with their scores said they couldn’t afford test prep.

**Fewer Louisiana Black Students Dual-Enroll.** Only 22 percent of Louisiana’s black high school students take dual enrollment courses for college credit versus 42 percent of white students.

And the percentage of students enrolled in these classes drops as the percentage of black students in a school rises, according to a report to the state’s Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Board of Regents.

“To develop talent and eliminate equity gaps in higher education, much greater intentionality and commitment is needed from all high schools, school systems, colleges and universities in harnessing these successful programs...” the report said. ■

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