

Access & Diversity Collaborative

Promoting Access and Diversity in Higher Education

Education leaders today face no greater imperative than providing access to higher education for all students and maximizing the educational benefits of diversity in higher learning outcomes. As the United States becomes increasingly diverse, higher education institutions must prepare their students to be productive and successful in society. If the U.S. is to reach the goal of having the highest percentage of college graduates by 2025, we must:

- Expand the pipeline to college access for low-income, minority, and other students who have been historically underserved;
- Increase college enrollment and success for underserved students; and
- Honor the notion that the educational benefits of diversity should pertain to all students.

Know the facts

The percentage of minorities in the public high school graduate population has grown significantly between 2004 and projections for 2015. Data from WICHE indicate that minority students will account for the entire growth among public high school graduates between 2008 and 2015.



The percentage growth in public high school graduates by ethnicity in that time frame is as follows: African American, +3%; American Indian/Alaska Native, +7%; Asian American/Pacific Islander, +32%; Hispanic: +54%; white: -11%.

Despite growth in underserved populations across the country and the recognized benefits of diversity to all students on college campuses, consideration of race, ethnicity, and gender in college and university admission is not universal.



Five states have enacted laws to eliminate the consideration of race, ethnicity, and gender in admission: California, Florida, Michigan, Nebraska, and Washington.

The need for access to, and success in, higher education for all qualified high school students is a national imperative. The nation needs an educated workforce and citizenry in order to remain a player in a global economy.



Between 1995 and 2005, the U.S. slipped from second to 15th place in university completion for young adults.

Support our efforts

The College Board's Access & Diversity Collaborative was launched in response to *Grutter v. Bollinger*, the 2003 United States Supreme Court decision that upheld the lawfulness of the University of Michigan's race- and ethnicity-conscious admission policy. The Collaborative was formed to help higher education institutions develop and implement educationally sound and legally viable access and diversity enrollment policies, taking into account relevant social science research, institutional experience, and relevant federal and state laws. By conducting national seminars, publishing policy papers, and implementing other community outreach, the Collaborative has established a model that aims to advance the work of education leaders who are striving to enhance the learning experiences of their students and better prepare them for life in the 21st century.

Call for change

Support the College Board's amicus brief, and those being filed by other higher education organizations, in favor of The University of Texas's proper application of their diversity enrollment policies, which are consistent with the 2003 *Grutter* decision.

Use our tools

The Access & Diversity Toolkit is a user-friendly resource that will help facilitate meaningful dialogues and policy discussions on campus among multiple groups of stakeholders.

A Video Series helps colleges and universities in their efforts to develop and enhance access and diversity policies.

Policy Papers/Briefs summarize major policy, legal, and education trends that college and university leaders should be aware of as they shape their access and diversity policies.

Models/Blueprint Publications provide guidance on access and diversity policy development through the use of "model" institutional policies.

National Seminars/Presentations are designed to equip higher education leaders with strategies and resources to effectively advance their campus access and diversity goals.

Act now

- Utilize the Access & Diversity Collaborative website to assist with an evaluation of your campus's diversity enrollment goals and outcomes.
- Support policies that encourage institutions to expand and meet their diversity goals in the manner of The University of Texas at Austin.

For more information on the Access & Diversity Collaborative, visit:

<http://diversitycollaborative.collegeboard.org>