

>> Shaping Our Future

How Should Higher Education Help Us Create the Society We Want?

Now that you've had a chance to participate in a forum on this issue, we'd like to know what you're thinking. Your opinions, along with those of thousands of others who participated in these forums, will be reflected in a summary report that will be available to all citizens, including those who took part in the forums, as well as officeholders, members of the news media, and others in your community.

1. Do you agree or disagree with the statements below?	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
a. The primary purpose of a college education should be to help young people acquire skills that will enable them to get well paying jobs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Our country's long-term prosperity heavily depends on educating more students in the fields of science, engineering, and math.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. College should be where students learn to develop the ability to think critically by studying a rich curriculum that includes history, art and literature, government, economics, and philosophy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Teaching young people to be more socially concerned and responsible should be left to families and communities—this is not what college is for.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Continually pushing for more students to graduate from college will end up weakening academic standards—college is not for everyone.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Even if the United States is a world leader in science and technology, it won't help most Americans unless we have an economy that supports a strong middle class and offers more opportunity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Colleges should require courses that incorporate hands-on learning experiences, such as internships, community service, and campus projects that teach community problem-solving skills.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Creating a higher education system that puts a lot more emphasis on excellence and high standards could mean we'll end up neglecting the needs of student who aren't as accomplished or ambitious.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Do you favor or oppose the statements below?	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure
a. Financial aid, including scholarships and work study opportunities, should be expanded for lower- and middle-income students, EVEN IF that places more emphasis on family income than on academic merit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Colleges and universities should make greater efforts to diversify their student bodies by recruiting more students from other countries, EVEN IF this results in fewer slots for American students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Colleges and universities should adopt cost-cutting measures, such as online learning, EVEN IF this teaching method does not provide the educational enrichment of classroom exchanges.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

>> QUESTIONNAIRE

- | | Strongly Favor | Somewhat Favor | Somewhat Oppose | Strongly Oppose | Not Sure |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2. Do you favor or oppose the statements below? (continued) | | | | | |
| d. Community colleges should gear their class offerings to the needs of local employers, EVEN IF narrower job-focused programs may limit students' abilities to move on to four-year colleges. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. College programs should require hands-on projects that teach collaborative and community problem solving, EVEN IF these activities reduce the time for academic learning. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Scholarships and student loans should be geared to the highest-achieving students in scientific and technical fields that most benefit the economy, EVEN IF this means cutting aid to students in other fields. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Colleges should provide education of the highest possible academic quality, EVEN IF that means costs will continue to rise. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Colleges and universities should encourage all students to take a diverse range of courses to better understand the world they live in, EVEN IF many such courses have little direct bearing on the jobs that will be available when students graduate. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3. Are you thinking differently about this issue now that you have participated in the forum? Yes No

If yes, how? _____

4. In your forum, did you talk about aspects of the issues you hadn't considered before? Yes No

If yes, please explain. _____

5. What, if anything, might citizens in your community do differently as a result of this forum?

6. Have you attended a forum on this subject? Yes No

How many other National Issues Forums have you attended? 1-3 4-6 7 or more

7. Are you male or female? Male Female

8. How old are you? 17 or younger 18-30 31-45 46-64 65 or older

9. Are you: African American Asian American Hispanic or Latino Native American
 White/Caucasian Other (please specify) _____

10. What educational level have you completed? High school Two-year college
 Four-year college or university Post-graduate program

11. Are you currently: A student at a two- or four-year college or university
 On the faculty of a two- or four-year college or university

12. What is your ZIP code? _____

**Please give this form to the moderator, or mail it to National Issues Forums Institute,
 100 Commons Road, Dayton, Ohio 45459-2777.**