

“ Demands Facing Higher Education”

by

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Abstract

A number of states are now emphasizing graduation rates and retention in their funding formulas for higher education. Several years ago, the Obama administration suggested a college rating system based upon these outcomes, as well as access and affordability.¹ Many criticize this system saying it will unfairly impact colleges and university with higher percentages of minority students.²

Historically, education has been a state and local issue. In the article, “Future Challenges Facing American Higher Education,” Chang-Lin Tien identifies three important challenges to higher education: (1) the spread of democracy and the free market (implying education for the masses and the breakdown of traditional elitist structures), (2) rapid advances in information technology and telecommunication (the Global Village as a reality), and (3) increased diversity in communities, workplaces and

¹ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/08/22/fact-sheet-president-s-plan-make-college-more-affordable-better-bargain->

² <http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/education/2014/09/04/federal-college-rating-system-hurt-minorities-vandy-professor-says/15032997/>

social institutions (internationalism and multiculturalism).³ This paper will discuss these challenges. Further, the author will discuss how increased demands for accountability, coupled with difficulties of governance, factor into these challenges.

³ Tien, Chang-Lin. 1999. "Future Challenges Facing American Higher Education" in Hirsch and Weber (eds) *Challenges Facing Higher Education at the Millennium*. Phoenix, AZ; Orynx Press.