

Funding: Who should pay for higher education?

The rise in tuition and the obscurity of where the money goes raises the question of who should pay for the education we need. Should it be the students or the government? Financial aid is provided by the government from tax payers to help low income families pay for tuition. Low income and high income families are taken care of but it still leaves out middle income families. Unable to get financial aid and unable to immediately pay off the tuition, puts middle income families in a situation where they have to save money for years or the student has to use a dreaded student loan. The government should help pay for student to be able to strive to reach higher education because the world is all connected back to education and all the young students are soon to become adults in the real world. Assemblywoman Kristin Olsen discusses the importance of our education in a public forum at CSU Stanislaus University October 25, 2011. She says “Funding higher education should be priority because it is tied to the success of our economy. We are not going to get out of this recession unless we have a strong well educated work force.” Kristin understands how vital education is for the economy globally. The students not only represent themselves but represent the whole educational community. Student loans are causing student to not want to attend college because of all the money needed to pay back. The strongest reason why students can’t afford college is because of the increasing tuition cost and there is not enough funding to support both low and mid income families.

The biggest worry post-graduates face in college is the sky-high tuition and cost of living. Students receive loans because they are unable to keep up with the rise in tuition cost, also the loans they receive can have a high interest fee causing students to pay for years after they have already graduated. Marcia Clemmitt, a veteran social-policy reporter wrote a journal about student in debt and she discovers, “The system will never be fair to student borrowers. Meanwhile, tuition continues to rise, and total higher-education debt has surpassed credit-card debt for the first time, rising to \$830 billion in mid-2010 and continuing to climb” (Clemmitt). There is a question as to what the students’ tuition is really used for. The campus isn’t getting new renovations every year and the technology seldom improves so the question stays the same. The rise in tuition and the obscurity of where the money goes raises the question of who should pay for the education we need. The students have the right to achieve higher education and it should be funded in a combination between both students and the government.

How is raising the tuition helping student acquire a ‘better’ degree? A Bachelor’s degree is the same regardless how much is paid for it. Marcia Clemmitt gives proof by give Donald Heller is well educated professor at Pennsylvania State University recognition his more optimistic view.

He acknowledges ‘heightened concern’ that high unemployment and lagging wages make it difficult for students to see a return on their education investment. ‘But,’ he says, ‘we have to remember that the vast majority of people getting bachelor's degrees are getting jobs’ and have better employment odds than people without degrees’ (Clemmitt).

Professor Donald Heller makes a strong point but the real question is how is a college student going to pay back any money if the unemployment rate is also climbing rapidly? The thought of

a college student working and attending college is possible, but how much actual time is left in the day to work? Students need to work long enough to pay back student loans, live and provide for themselves, while also needing to attend school and have time to study for class in order to continue attending college. The harsh fact is that students and the community need the government's help with funding for higher education because it's unethical to leave students with the burden of the money owed to college if they're going to put back positive things for the economy.

The statistics tell the true of how much college costs for students. Kim B. Clark a former Dean of Harvard business school and now President of Brigham Young University Idaho team up with Penelope Wang a senior magazine to write a journal on the tuition mayhem.

Over the past 10 years the cost of private college has jumped more than 60%, nearly three times as much as incomes over the same period, and will now set you back \$42,000 a year on average. Prices at public colleges have shot up even more, nearly doubling to \$21,000 for in-state students. Got younger kids? By 2020 you're looking at a four-year bill that's likely to top \$240,000 for private schools and \$155,000 at public universities. Sure there's financial aid, but scholarships aren't keeping up with tuition inflation. So long, retirement hopes; hello again, boss. (Clark, Wang).

By the year 2020, the price for tuition will be about \$155,000-\$240,000. How is it possible for the student to pay back that kind of money if everyone is having problems now? The problem

with financial aid is that most students don't qualify for it because their parents make a good amount of money. If parents make a good amount of money, it does not necessarily mean it's enough to pay for college especially with the prices through the roof.

Mary H Copper, a free lance writer, gives a great example of a young student and how it is not fair for middle class families because even though their parents make good money it is not enough for their children to go to college.

As tuition has risen faster than personal income, students and their families have been scrambling to find additional funding. Gerard, for example, "stayed in Madison last summer and got a job. He also applied to a variety of programs offering grants and loans, but ran into a brick wall. 'All I got was a Stafford loan (p. 1014) for \$1,600, which covered about half the tuition for one semester,' he says. 'I searched everywhere, we tried everything, but that's all I could get.' Gerard's father, a magazine-publishing executive, earns more than \$50,000 a year, which made the family ineligible for most financial aid, even though Gerard is one of five children (Cooper).

Gerard is facing one of the biggest problems college students face around the world. He is forced to pay for a college degree at a high rate even though you would get exactly the same degree if you paid less

People would argue that students should be responsible to pay for their education if they really want it. I don't disagree with this statement but the harsh fact is that students can't afford the cost for college at the price it's at today. It is nearly impossible for anyone to get a good job without a type of degree, at the way the economy is today it is extremely hard to get a job without some sort of degree.. I do agree that students should pay for college but not all of it.

Even though some parents make a good amount of money, the fact that they have a decent income shouldn't disqualify them from some type of financial aid. Students need the taxpayers help in order to get a degree to achieve that successful life. Others might state that parents should pay for college and students should get job to pay for college but unemployment rate is increasing which makes it hard for students to find work and for parents to find a second job. I have had experience with the extensive process of job searching. I am a college student that has been looking for a job for the past four months and the future doesn't look like it's going to change much. All the money I manage to sum up for college tuition I still wonder where it all must go.

All the money people pay for college seemingly disappears and nobody can account for it. Caidence a college student takes his time to research where tuition money goes. "There is obviously the basic cost of running the school. This is everything from electricity to the upkeep of the grounds. There is also paying teachers and funding student resources. There are a lot of expenses because the colleges have to constantly update and remodel" (Caidence). I attend CSU Stanislaus and I agree with the remodeling statement but the update part has yet to be proven. Colleges don't update unless it is needed for so it is quite obvious the tuition money isn't being used in that department. How much money can really be put in the electricity and up-keeping? The more realistic sounding answer is paying teachers, faculty and funding resources for students. The resources still can't really use all the money that every person attending the college pay and it still doesn't seem to be enough because school continues to raise the tuition cost. The real answer to where the money really goes is still at a mystery to typical individuals and it seems as if the people in power and the Presidents of colleges hide the truth. Students need to be responsible for college but they also need help in succeeding with their dreams and that starts

with financial help for their tuition fees. The United State government should support and motivate every student with funding. The students and government should both pay for the tuition cost because the students attending school now are going to impact the work force in the near future.

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