

### A Fare Share

“The middle-class can’t foot the cost, but also don’t qualify for financial aid,” stated Dr. Kristen Olsen at the forum at CSU Stanislaus. Students wanting to continue their education shouldn’t worry about what will be holding them back, but think about how they will get to that point. In most cases money is the main issue that keeps students from continuing their education. The government should pay at least half of student’s higher education because most students can’t afford it and the government would benefit from having more successful people.

Having to go to school thirty years ago, wasn’t as hard as it is now. Average tuition fees for a four-year university ranged about \$2,800 in 1988; by 2008 it was about \$6,500 a year not including books or room and board. Tuition, fees, books, and other costs increased dramatically leaving students in debt. According to Howard Cohen, in an article on “Who Should Pay for Higher Education?” he states; “The state typically paid about two-thirds of the cost of undergraduate, in-state, education, assigning the remaining cost to students and their families as tuition” (Cohen). Even though it was a few thousand dollars for tuition costs, it was still a good amount being paid by the government, which left families paying a small amount. It isn’t as bad as it is now with the economy rising; leaving middle class at breaking point too.

It’s difficult to be classified as middle-class because not only are there bills to pay, but when it comes to school, it’s hard to get scholarships and aid, but I still wanted to pursue my dream. Living in a house hold as middle-class it was difficult to choose a school to continue my education because I wasn’t receiving anything of financial aid meaning I would have to pay out

of pocket. At last, waiting for my application for FAFSA I decided to just take out a loan because in the long run it'll all be worth it. Cohen states, "College graduates not only are prepared for well-paying jobs, they also are prepared to change careers as the world changes around them" (Cohen). Having a college education will give you a better life because there are more job opportunities with a college degree. To actually have a career in life and not just a job; to keep me financially stabilized.

According to a passage I read in an article Erin Lyon states "Those who receive the benefits of higher education often pay back society's investment through the tax system or by entering professions that benefit others; such as medicine, teaching, social work, etc."(Lyon). Many students aren't just receiving this money for education, but in the long run it's being paid off by pursuing their education and becoming another educated person in this world. As well as receiving a degree to become teacher, doctor, or a police officer. It's a fair share receiving aid by the government and at the end receiving your degree to become someone to make a difference in this society.

A lot of people wonder why, we don't have enough money to give those students in need of a higher education, but in reality they really don't know where the money goes. At the forum at CSU Stanislaus Judy Heiman stated "Compared to other states, it's by far the lowest tuition in the nation" (Heiman). Yes for most of us we can consider going to a Cal state because it's cheaper than a private university. But for most, families don't have the money to pay for students' tuition, books, and other costs. The money has to be earned somewhere and if the student is willing to go to school to further their education and make a difference than they should receive financial aid. Not a lot of students receive the benefit of getting financial aid to go to school, but they should take that opportunity because most don't have the money to go.

An experience I've learned through high school was a friend with a 4.0 grade point average, accepted to his dream school at UC Santa Cruz, but unable to attend. After waiting patiently for his financial aid, he would have to pay out of pocket. Coming from a middle-class family he was unable to attend. Therefore he attended a community college and will be transferring within two years to a four-year school. It's harder for a lot of students having to go through this because it's taken for granted at times and harder as a transfer student. According to an article "Squeezed from All Sides" Patricia Gandara stated "Most students are determined to keep going, because they know the consequences of not finishing college, especially in a state where the decent middle-class jobs for people without degrees are shrinking away" (Gandara). Without a degree now, it's impossible to live on your own and raise a family; therefore college should and must be a priority.

Overall, everyone and anyone would want us students to continue our education in college, as a result having the government pay for half of tuition in college. As Gandara states "California is a state with many resources that have not been tapped and we have broken the pact that the state has historically made with the young-to educate them so that they can compete with the rest of the country and the world, and so that each generation can reach beyond the boundaries of the prior one to build the state's future" (Gandara). Also, there would be a higher rate of students attending college. Filling in the gap of not worrying how and where a student will get money to pay for their education keeps one thinking about what their second option might be. Either taking a risk and get a loan, or start working at a part-time job while money is saved up to continue their education. We as students know what we want for our future besides having to go to college; we want to pursue a career that will lead us into the rest of our journey in life.



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