

Contribution for Higher Education

Education does not come cheap. People always ask, “Who should pay for higher education?” The answer is simple, the state and the individual should both contribute funding. The contribution of funding has its pros. If no personal investment is made then the individual has no commitment to be successful. There should be an incentive made for government giving away free money. Students receiving financial aid should have to show progress towards the degree they are trying to achieve. If not, the money the government handed out should be taken away. Most students need financial aid and the ones that are awarded the money are sometimes students that don’t even need it. The funding for higher education should both be contributed by state and the individual.

Higher education should be funded both by the state and the individual seeking for higher education. I believe that the individual seeking for higher education should contribute 50 percent and the state contributes 50 percent. I say both people contribute so the person trying to achieve his/her education has some motivation for learning instead of just a free joy ride. If the state pays the whole bill for the individual, then the student may not have a motivation to even learn and study. Therefore the government is wasting their money on this individual that does not take school seriously when they can give out the money to someone else who is willing to work hard for their education. If the individual contributes money then they will work harder for their education because they are spending their own money. Kristen Olsen representative of the 25th

Assembly District states, “If no personal investment is made, then you have no commitment to be successful” (Olsen). I totally agree with what Olsen had to say because she made great points of who should pay for higher education and how it should be done. Olsen talks about how both the government should help out with the money, but the individual as well has to help contribute the money because that is their self-drive to accomplish their degree.

If the state does decide to give out free money to students, I believe that there should be some type of perk that comes with the money. The state should make some type of deal with the student, a deal that the student must have to achieve to earn the free money. The state should give out the free money if the student shows progress towards his/her degree. If the student is just wasting his/her time in school and showing no progress then the money should be taken away. Representative Kristen Olsen says, “Students receiving financial aid should show progress and achievement towards degree” (Olsen). This is a great idea to do, because the gift of free money will make the student work hard and they will know that if they slack off and show no achievement, then the money will be taken away. The gift of free money should have its perks.

Students who have a higher education may help our economy. Dr. Jim Riggs former President of Columbia College, Vice President of Education and student services makes a great discussion on how students receiving higher education can have a great boost to our economy. Dr. Riggs also believes that the state should pay half and the students should pay half for their education. Dr. Riggs says, “Students need to pay for something so that the public can return to them” (Riggs). Dr. Riggs means by that is that the student wanting higher education should pay out of their pocket and work hard for what they want so then later on in return the public can give back for all the hard work they accomplished. Student who receive a higher education have greater opportunities to boost our economy because they have a higher chance of making more

money. Therefore, they can buy houses and keep our economy moving so we can have more jobs available to us because our unemployment rate is just increasing by the days. Students with a higher education have more of a chance to start their own business and hire people to work for them. The entrepreneurship of starting a business can help people find jobs and help decrease the unemployment rate. A student who received a higher education and had come up with his own business can hire people to work for him and help lower the unemployment rate. Education is the key to help improve our economy. Education can be the key to get rid of our nation poverty. A good example is Japan having no resources what so ever, but yet they are still the second richest economy in the world. Education can play a huge role in our economy because it helps people think more logically and think of many different ways we can help keep our economy stable.

Not every student receives money for higher education and Edward Krigbaum makes a great debate on how higher education should really be funded. Not every student can get money for school from the government because their parents probably make too much money. Therefore the only option the student has is to take out student loans or try to find a job and save up for college funds. Mr. Krigbaum states that there is no authority to fund higher education. According to Mr. Krigbaum, “The founding fathers gave 17 different things for the federal government to do and education wasn’t one of them. James Madison stated that if you would pay for things you shouldn’t, then the federal government will fall apart” (Krigbaum). Mr. Krigbaum was trying to say is that everyone should pay for their own education and the government shouldn’t have to spend money on us because Mr. Krigbaum stated that he had no government support and that he had to pay for school all on his own. What Mr. Krigbaum doesn’t know is that the government did help with his education and he just didn’t know of it. The government paid for all the necessary fees and all Mr. Krigbaum had to pay was the tuition and books. Mr. Krigbaum just

knew that he had to work his butt off to get through school and he knew how hard it was and he doesn't like the idea of other students getting money for their higher education and he believes that they should earn their own money. Mr. Krigbaum makes a great point and I partially agree with him because it's hard for people to get jobs because of our unemployment rate, on top of that the average minimum wage is eight dollars an hour making it really difficult for a student to save up because not every job gives away many hours. I believe that higher education should be contributed both by the government and the individual.

Having a great education is a wonderful thing, but wondering who would pay for it all is the big question. There are several debates on who should pay for higher education. Some people believe that the government should pay for it all because they will get something back in return. Some people believe that the student wanting the education should have to pay for it because a higher education is not required, but it is recommended. I believe that both the government and the student should contribute fifty-fifty for higher education. Having both people contribute is a great way for success. The individual whose paying out of his pocket has a motivation to work harder and by the government supporting the individual will help out the economy in the long run and hope for unemployment rates to drop. Education is amazing and definitely pricy, but that is why I believe that higher education should be funded by both the individual and the government.

Work Cited

Cohen, Howard. "Who Should Pay for Higher Education?" New York Times, 2003. Web. 30 Oct. 2011.

Lyon, Erin. "Who Should Pay for Higher Education? "Everyone"." Universities, 13 Apr. 2010. Web. 30 Oct. 2011.

Springer, Marlene. "Dollars and Degrees: Who Should Pay for Higher Education?" New York Times, 2005. Web.

Long, H.V. "Springer, Marlene." "Dollars and Degrees: Who Should Pay for Higher Education?" New York Times, 2005. Web." Love to Know Corp., 2006. Web.

Heiman, Judy. Riggs, Jim. Krigbaum, Edward. Olsen, Kristen. "Perspective in Higher Education "Open Fourm CSU Stanislaus, Turlock. 25 Oct. 2011 Address.