

2017

INSIDE
HIGHER ED

SURVEY OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENTS

A STUDY BY
INSIDE HIGHER ED AND GALLUP

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EDITORS, INSIDE HIGHER ED

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THE 2017 INSIDE HIGHER ED SURVEY OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS

A study by Gallup and *Inside Higher Ed*



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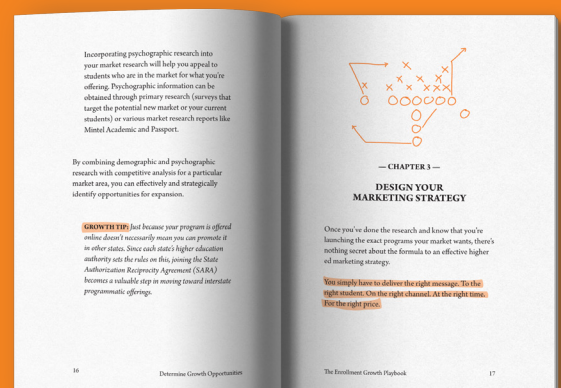


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FOREWORD

Inside Higher Ed's seventh annual Survey of College and University Presidents seeks to understand how these leaders view the key issues facing higher education institutions in the U.S.

This study addresses the following questions:

- What effects do presidents perceive the election of Donald Trump had on their campuses and on higher education more generally? What do they think the Trump administration has in store for higher education?
- What are presidents' views on some of the federal policies that affect higher education – including those the administration might change?
- Do college presidents believe that Americans have an accurate view of the purposes of higher education? Are presidents concerned that attention focused on issues such as student debt, racial protests and large endowments are painting a distorted picture of what is really occurring in higher education?
- Are presidents confident in the sustainability of their institution's financial model in the next 5 and 10 years?
- What are presidents' biggest concerns about the size and makeup of their student bodies?
- How do college presidents assess race relations at their college and at colleges nationwide?
- How vocal were presidents on political matters during the 2016 campaign? Do they wish they had been more vocal?

SNAPSHOT OF FINDINGS

- Six in 10 presidents strongly agree or agree they are confident their institution is financially sustainable over the next five years. Slightly less, 52 percent, are confident about their institution's financial health over the next 10 years, more than felt that way in 2016.
- College presidents' greatest concerns about enrollment are having enough institutional aid to enroll as many low-income students as their college would like to have, enrolling students who are likely to be retained and graduate on time, and enrolling their college's target number of undergraduates. The latter is especially true among leaders of private baccalaureate colleges.
- The vast majority of presidents describe the state of race relations at their college as either "excellent" (20 percent) or "good" (63 percent). More than three-fifths of presidents describe race relations at American colleges in general as "fair."
- Just 12 percent of presidents strongly agree or agree that most Americans understand the purpose of higher education; half strongly disagree or disagree.
- College presidents widely believe the public thinks that college is less affordable than it is because of attention to student debt levels, that colleges are wealthier than is the case because of attention to large endowments, and that colleges have misplaced priorities because of the campus amenities many colleges now offer students.
- Most presidents favor recently adopted federal policies to include gender identity among areas protected by anti-bias laws (76 percent), to institute gainful employment rules for for-profit colleges and some nonprofit college vocational programs (67 percent), and to require a preponderance of evidence standard in evaluating sexual assault allegations (63 percent).
- Presidents largely oppose maintaining the College Scorecard and permitting teaching assistants at private colleges to unionize.
- Following the election of Donald Trump as U.S. president, one in five college presidents say racial incidents have increased on their campus. Two-thirds of college presidents strongly agree or agree that campus protests after Trump's election have played into an image that higher education is intolerant of conservative views.
- A majority of presidents believe the election exposed a disconnect between academe and much of American society. Nearly 7 in 10 perceive that anti-intellectual sentiment is growing in the U.S.
- About one in three college presidents say they spoke out more on political issues during the 2016 presidential campaign than they usually do. Sixteen percent say they wish they had spoken out more than they did.

METHODOLOGY

This report presents findings from a quantitative survey research study that Gallup conducted on behalf of *Inside Higher Ed*, designed to examine how college and university presidents view the pressing issues facing higher education.

To achieve this objective, Gallup sent invitations via email to 2,890 presidents and sent regular reminders throughout the Jan. 5–Feb. 1, 2017, field period. Gallup collected 706 completed or partially completed web surveys, yielding a 24 percent response rate. Respondents represented 385 public institutions, 292 private institutions and 29 institutions from the for-profit sector.

Total Participation by Sector										
	All Institutions by Sector				Public			Private Nonprofit		
	All	Public	Private Non-profit	For-Profit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.	Assoc.*
Total N	706	385	292	29	41	88	236	136	108	4

*Data are not reported for these groups due to small sample size.

Note: System offices and specialized institutions are categorized by sector but not by highest degree offering.

Some sectors do not have data reported due to small sample sizes. Sector groupings are determined based on the 2015 Carnegie Code for the institution.

Gallup education consultants developed the questionnaire in collaboration with Scott Jaschik and Doug Lederman from *Inside Higher Ed*. The sample did not include Bible colleges and seminaries and institutions with enrollments of fewer than 500 students. Each institution is represented only once in the results.

The survey is an attempted census of all presidents using the most comprehensive sample information available. Gallup statistically weighted data to correct for nonresponse, matching the obtained sample to targets for all U.S. colleges and universities from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System database. Gallup weighted the sample based on institutional control (public or private/nonprofit), four-year or two-year degree offerings, student enrollment and geographical region. Therefore, the weighted sample results can be considered representative of the views of presidents at colleges nationwide.

The following sections present the findings of the survey. In some cases, reported frequencies may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding. "Don't know" and "Refused" responses are excluded from the results.

DETAILED FINDINGS

FINANCIAL HEALTH

The majority of college and university presidents strongly agree or agree (63 percent) that they are confident their institution will be financially sustainable over the next five years. Slightly less, 52 percent, are confident in the 10-year financial outlook of their respective institutions.

Presidents of public and private institutions express roughly the same degree of confidence in their respective institutions' financial health. Presidents at public doctoral universities are most confident in their institution's financial outlook over the next 5 and 10 years, followed by private doctoral and master's university presidents. A plurality of both public associate and private baccalaureate university presidents are confident in the 10-year financial outlook of their colleges.

But the sector-specific numbers have swung sharply since last year. In 2016, 41 percent of public university leaders agreed they were confident in their institutions' financial sustainability over a decade (compared to 57 percent of private college presidents); this year's figure rose to 49 percent (54 percent for their private college counterparts).

The most dramatic changes occurred at public doctoral universities, where the number of presidents expressing strong agreement about their institution's sustainability doubled, to 25 percent from 12. Presidents of private baccalaureate colleges appear to be growing less confident, with 46 percent agreeing or strongly agreeing about the financial sustainability of their institutions over a decade, down from 54 percent in 2016.

Using a five-point scale, where 5 means strongly agree and 1 means strongly disagree, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.								
	All Institutions by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
I am confident my institution will be financially stable over the next five years.								
%5 Strongly agree	24	22	23	44	18	21	28	13
%4	39	41	39	39	39	36	40	41
%3	24	19	27	10	20	23	25	31
%2	12	15	10	4	21	16	6	14
%1 Strongly disagree	2	3	<1	2	2	4	1	1
I am confident my institution will be financially stable over the next 10 years.								
%5 Strongly agree	18	13	20	25	15	11	24	16
%4	34	36	34	44	39	32	37	30
%3	34	31	38	21	32	32	33	47
%2	12	17	8	7	12	20	6	7
%1 Strongly disagree	2	3	<1	2	3	4	0	1

FINANCIAL HEALTH (cont.)

Asked to assess the viability of business models in different sectors of higher education, presidents are most likely to believe that the business models for elite private universities are sustainable over the next 10 years. Ninety-one percent of presidents strongly agree (65 percent) or agree (26 percent) that elite private universities -- described as those with endowments in excess of \$1 billion -- have sustainable business models.

Majorities of presidents also strongly agree or agree that elite private liberal arts colleges (75 percent) and public flagship universities (63 percent) have business models that are sustainable over the next decade. College presidents are somewhat less likely to believe community colleges' business models are sustainable, with 43 percent strongly agreeing or agreeing this is the case.

Presidents are less optimistic about the 10-year outlook for non-flagship public four-year universities (26 percent), other private four-year institutions (10 percent) and for-profit institutions (9 percent). Sixty-eight percent of presidents strongly disagree or disagree that the business models used by for-profit institutions are sustainable over the next 10 years.

Private and public college presidents hold similar views on the financial outlook for most institution types. They do diverge, however, in their opinions about elite private liberal arts colleges and public flagship universities. Private college presidents (85 percent) are much likelier than public college presidents (66 percent) to strongly agree or agree the business models for elite private liberal arts colleges are sustainable. In contrast, public college presidents (69 percent) are more optimistic than private college presidents (59 percent) about the financial prospects for public flagship universities.

Presidents at public associate colleges are no more likely than presidents at most other institutions to believe community colleges' business models are sustainable over the next decade. Forty-five percent of public associate college presidents strongly agree or agree this is the case; 29 percent strongly disagree or disagree. The one group of presidents who significantly differ in their views of the viability of community colleges are public doctoral college presidents. In this group, just 21 percent believe community colleges' business models are sustainable over the next 10 years.

FINANCIAL HEALTH (cont.)

Using a five-point scale, where 5 means strongly agree and 1 means strongly disagree, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

The business models for the following sectors of higher education are sustainable over the next 10 years:

	All Institutions by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Elite private universities (endowments > \$1 billion)								
%5 Strongly agree	65	60	70	69	60	56	73	70
%4	26	31	23	26	29	32	23	19
%3	6	6	4	5	8	8	2	7
%2	1	2	1	0	3	2	1	1
%1 Strongly disagree	1	1	2	0	0	2	1	3
Elite private liberal arts colleges (endowments > \$500 million)								
%5 Strongly agree	37	27	46	20	29	29	51	46
%4	38	39	39	40	30	42	34	40
%3	18	26	11	34	30	20	13	8
%2	5	7	2	6	11	7	2	2
%1 Strongly disagree	2	1	2	0	0	2	1	3
Public flagship universities								
%5 Strongly agree	29	28	29	32	26	27	33	30
%4	34	41	30	46	39	41	30	26
%3	23	19	26	16	23	19	25	30
%2	11	10	12	4	6	11	9	10
%1 Strongly disagree	3	3	3	2	5	3	3	4

FINANCIAL HEALTH (cont.)

	All Institutions by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Community colleges								
%5 Strongly agree	15	11	18	5	8	16	12	20
%4	28	29	28	16	33	29	31	23
%3	32	33	32	56	30	27	32	38
%2	21	22	19	22	23	23	22	16
%1 Strongly disagree	4	5	3	0	6	6	3	3
Non-flagship public four-year institutions								
%5 Strongly agree	5	3	7	0	7	3	4	9
%4	21	24	17	24	28	22	22	17
%3	37	41	34	59	29	43	35	39
%2	31	27	34	11	30	29	31	25
%1 Strongly disagree	6	4	7	6	7	3	8	10
Other private four-year institutions								
%5 Strongly agree	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
%4	9	7	10	2	6	9	12	7
%3	41	37	45	31	28	38	43	49
%2	42	46	39	61	53	43	39	42
%1 Strongly disagree	7	10	5	5	13	8	6	2
For-profit institutions								
%5 Strongly agree	2	1	3	0	1	1	0	3
%4	7	6	5	5	3	9	2	7
%3	23	21	23	11	27	21	23	22
%2	48	51	47	53	41	51	53	45
%1 Strongly disagree	20	20	22	31	28	18	22	24

Concerns About Student Body Size and Composition

Colleges face a highly competitive environment when attempting to attract sufficient numbers of talented students who can succeed once they enroll. In addition to ensuring they have enough students to remain viable, colleges also want to achieve other goals such as having a diverse student body.

When asked to consider a variety of goals for their student body, presidents express the most concern about enrolling low-income students, student retention and hitting their enrollment target. More than 8 in 10 presidents are very or somewhat concerned about having enough institutional aid to enroll as many low-income students as they would like (87 percent), enrolling students who are likely to be retained and graduate on time (85 percent), and enrolling their college's target number of undergraduates (84 percent).

Majorities of presidents also express concern about enrolling enough students who do not need aid (64 percent), enrolling more students studying online (58 percent), enrolling enough racial and ethnic minority students to have a diverse student body (55 percent), enrolling more international students (53 percent), enrolling more first-generation students (52 percent) and giving out too much aid to students who do not need it (51 percent).

Of the 12 items tested in the survey, presidents are least concerned with enrolling classes that improve their institution's position in college ranking lists (34 percent). Enrolling talented athletes who can succeed academically (44 percent) and enrolling more out-of-state students (47 percent) are also areas of lesser concern for presidents.

Many colleges are wrestling with issues related to the size and composition of their student bodies. Please indicate how concerned you are about each of the following:								
	All Institutions by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Non-profit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Having enough institutional financial aid to enroll as many low-income students as your college would like								
% Very concerned	52	46	58	62	58	37	55	60
% Somewhat concerned	35	40	29	30	31	47	28	27
% Not too concerned	10	11	10	8	9	11	13	9
% Not concerned at all	4	3	3	0	1	5	4	4
Enrolling students who are likely to be retained and graduate on time								
% Very concerned	52	50	53	26	44	55	51	63
% Somewhat concerned	33	36	30	34	37	38	26	26
% Not too concerned	11	9	12	37	11	4	18	11
% Not concerned at all	4	5	4	2	8	3	5	0
Enrolling my college's target number of undergraduates								
% Very concerned	51	47	56	23	51	47	44	73
% Somewhat concerned	33	36	29	32	35	40	33	18
% Not too concerned	12	11	12	22	8	9	17	7
% Not concerned at all	5	6	3	23	6	4	6	1

Concerns About Student Body Size and Composition (cont.)

	All Institutions by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Non-profit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Enrolling enough students who don't need institutional student aid								
% Very concerned	26	8	44	12	20	6	48	53
% Somewhat concerned	38	36	38	50	40	33	30	35
% Not too concerned	24	35	14	29	30	38	16	10
% Not concerned at all	12	20	4	10	11	23	7	1
Enrolling more students studying online								
% Very concerned	15	14	17	7	23	11	22	13
% Somewhat concerned	43	43	43	35	31	47	36	45
% Not too concerned	30	33	26	47	33	33	29	25
% Not concerned at all	13	10	14	11	13	8	12	17
Enrolling enough racial and ethnic minority students to have a diverse student body								
% Very concerned	21	20	22	30	31	15	20	17
% Somewhat concerned	34	33	35	44	31	33	27	39
% Not too concerned	26	26	23	21	24	30	31	24
% Not concerned at all	20	20	20	5	14	23	22	20
Enrolling more international students								
% Very concerned	16	11	21	10	25	9	21	21
% Somewhat concerned	37	31	41	50	37	18	45	41
% Not too concerned	32	35	30	26	32	43	26	32
% Not concerned at all	15	22	8	14	6	30	8	6
Enrolling more first-generation students								
% Very concerned	20	25	16	21	29	21	15	17
% Somewhat concerned	32	33	32	44	23	38	36	32
% Not too concerned	30	25	34	30	29	22	27	32
% Not concerned at all	18	17	18	5	20	19	22	18
Giving out too much aid to students who may not need it								
% Very concerned	16	10	21	14	13	6	21	27
% Somewhat concerned	35	24	45	38	32	22	42	55
% Not too concerned	32	43	23	38	38	45	25	15
% Not concerned at all	16	23	11	10	17	27	12	3

Concerns About Student Body Size and Composition (cont.)

	All Institutions by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Non-profit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Enrolling more out-of-state students								
% Very concerned	11	6	15	14	11	3	16	14
% Somewhat concerned	36	26	44	39	50	21	43	48
% Not too concerned	30	38	23	34	29	37	24	23
% Not concerned at all	24	31	18	13	10	40	17	16
Enrolling talented athletes who can also succeed academically								
% Very concerned	9	7	11	8	9	5	11	11
% Somewhat concerned	35	30	38	33	36	26	29	46
% Not too concerned	35	38	33	48	39	38	42	31
% Not concerned at all	21	25	18	11	16	31	18	12
Enrolling a class that will improve my institution's position in college ranking lists								
% Very concerned	8	5	11	0	10	5	9	13
% Somewhat concerned	26	21	30	35	22	16	33	30
% Not too concerned	31	27	33	42	35	24	30	34
% Not concerned at all	35	47	26	23	33	55	27	23

Presidents at different types of colleges have varying levels of concern in several areas:

years, more than felt that way in 2016.

- Private college presidents (82 percent) are nearly twice as likely as public college presidents (44 percent) to say they are very or somewhat concerned about enrolling enough students who do not need institutional aid.
- By 66 percent to 34 percent, private college presidents also express much more concern than public college presidents do about giving too much aid to students who do not need it.
- Private college presidents also express greater concern than public college presidents about enrolling more international students (62 percent vs. 42 percent), enrolling more out-of-state students (59 percent vs. 32 percent) and enrolling students in classes that improve their institution's position on college ranking lists (41 percent vs. 26 percent). Public associate institution presidents' very low concern about these matters is largely responsible for the differences between public and private presidents.
- One area in which public college presidents' concern exceeds that for private college presidents is enrolling more first-generation students (58 percent vs. 48 percent).

Presidents at public doctoral institutions show significantly less concern than do presidents at other institutions about enrolling their target number of students, enrolling students who will be retained and graduate on time, and enrolling online students.

Private baccalaureate presidents are especially concerned about hitting enrollment targets -- 73 percent say they are "very concerned" -- far more than presidents at any other type of institution. Sixty-three percent of private baccalaureate college presidents are also very concerned about retaining students who will graduate on time. Public associate college presidents (55 percent) express a similar high degree of concern about retention.

RACE RELATIONS

Racial incidents continue to occur on college campuses. Still, the vast majority of college presidents rate the state of race relations on their campus positively, with 20 percent describing it as “excellent” and 63 percent as “good.” One percent of college presidents believe race relations on their campus are “poor.”

At the same time, presidents are much less positive about race relations on campuses nationwide. Only 23 percent positively assess race relations on U.S. campuses. The majority, 61 percent, rate race relations as “fair,” with another 16 percent describing them as “poor.”

Though private and public college presidents are about equally likely to rate race relations on their campuses positively, private college presidents are slightly more likely to describe them as excellent, 24 percent vs. 16 percent. Presidents at public doctoral colleges are least likely to give an excellent rating (11 percent).

As you may know, there has recently been intense discussion about race on many college and university campuses.								
	All Institutions by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Generally speaking, would you say the state of race relations on your campus is excellent, good, fair or poor?								
% Excellent	20	16	24	11	18	19	24	22
% Good	63	66	59	66	66	66	60	60
% Fair	16	17	16	20	17	15	16	17
% Poor	1	<1	1	2	0	<1	1	1
Generally speaking, would you say the state of race relations on college and university campuses in this country is excellent, good, fair or poor?								
% Excellent	<1	<1	0	0	0	<1	0	0
% Good	23	26	20	23	18	28	18	19
% Fair	61	59	61	72	67	57	69	63
% Poor	16	14	19	5	15	14	13	18

RACE RELATIONS (cont.)

Gallup and *Inside Higher Ed* have asked this question of presidents each of the last four years. The current data are essentially the same as what Gallup measured a year ago. While assessments of race relations on presidents' own campuses are also unchanged from 2015, their views of U.S. campus race relations remain far less positive than two years ago. This suggests that the high-profile racial protests on campuses across the country during the 2015–2016 academic year may still be affecting how presidents view race relations on campuses.

College Presidents' Assessment of the State of Race Relations, 2014–2017

Percentage Rating Relations as Excellent or Good

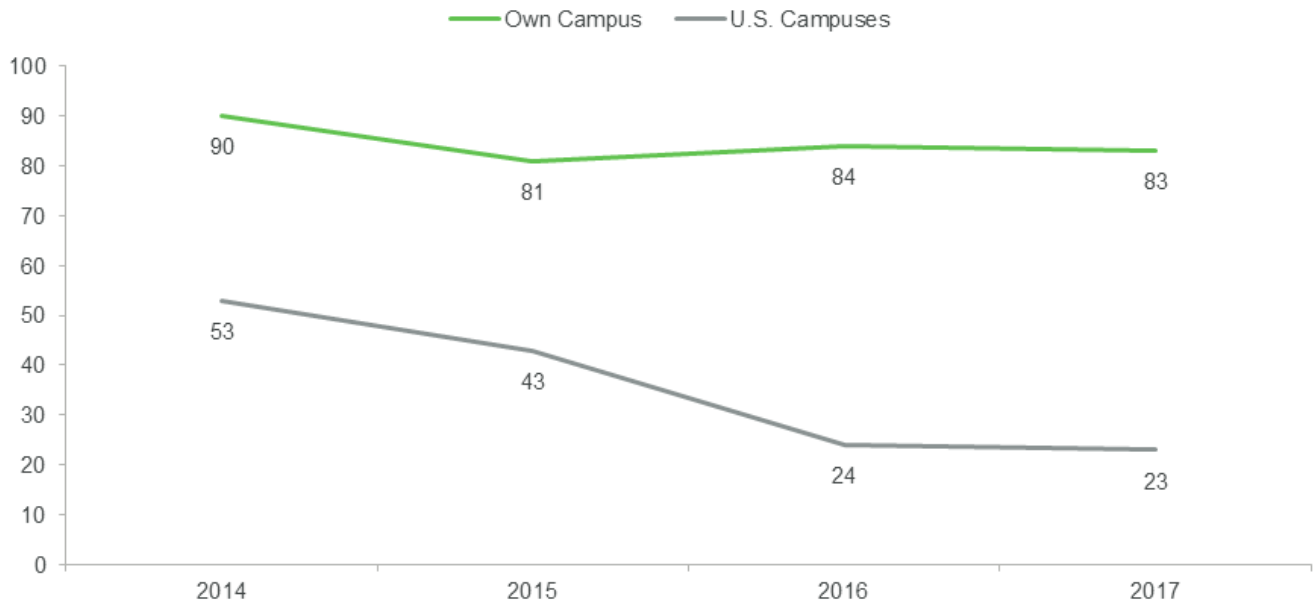


IMAGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Public misperceptions of the mission of higher education and the environment on campuses can hinder colleges' abilities to persuade prospective students and families, not to mention donors and policy makers, about the value of a college education. Most college presidents perceive that the public does not accurately understand the college landscape.

For example, just 12 percent of presidents strongly agree or agree that most Americans have an accurate view of the purpose of higher education. Half of presidents strongly disagree or disagree with the statement. Presidents' views are largely similar when they are asked whether Americans correctly understand the purpose of their institution's sector of higher education.

Public college presidents are more likely than private college presidents to think Americans understand the purpose of their institution's sector (25 percent vs. 11 percent, respectively) and of higher education more generally (16 percent vs. 8 percent, respectively), but these are still the decided minority views among public college presidents.

Presidents also widely believe the public has been led to believe college is less affordable than it is, that institutions are in better financial shape than they are, that colleges have misplaced priorities and that racial strife on campus is worse than it is.

Specifically, 84 percent of presidents strongly agree or agree that attention to student debt has resulted in parents and students thinking college is less affordable than it is once available student aid is taken into account. Eight in 10 presidents also agree that attention to large endowments has created a perception that most colleges are wealthier than they are.

Seventy-six percent of presidents think that amenities colleges offer to attract students have created a perception that colleges have misplaced priorities. Forty-eight percent of presidents strongly agree or agree, while 17 percent strongly disagree or disagree, that attention to racial protests has led students to think colleges are not as welcoming of diversity as they really are.

Presidents of public associate colleges are slightly less inclined than leaders of other types of institutions to agree that Americans have misperceptions about the affordability of college, the financial health of institutions and the climate of diversity on campuses.

IMAGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION (cont.)

Using a five-point scale, where 5 means strongly agree and 1 means strongly disagree, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.								
	All Institutions by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Attention to student debt has led many prospective students and parents to think of college as less affordable than it is, taking into account student aid.								
%5 Strongly agree	38	30	46	35	33	28	49	46
%4	46	51	42	53	50	50	40	45
%3	11	14	8	12	11	15	9	6
%2	4	4	3	0	1	5	1	3
%1 Strongly disagree	1	2	<1	0	5	1	1	0
Attention to large endowments at some institutions has created a perception that most colleges are wealthier than they are.								
%5 Strongly agree	31	26	36	35	28	27	39	32
%4	49	52	47	53	52	49	45	52
%3	13	14	12	5	12	15	9	13
%2	6	7	4	7	7	8	6	3
%1 Strongly disagree	1	1	<1	0	1	1	1	<1
Some of the amenities many colleges have added to entice students to enroll have contributed to the perception that these institutions have misplaced priorities.								
%5 Strongly agree	27	25	27	15	20	28	24	23
%4	49	49	51	63	45	52	52	52
%3	17	17	17	18	23	12	17	19
%2	6	7	4	5	5	6	5	5
%1 Strongly disagree	2	2	1	0	6	2	2	1
Attention to racial protests has led many prospective students and families to think colleges are less welcoming of diverse populations than is really the case.								
%5 Strongly agree	8	7	9	10	12	6	10	10
%4	40	37	44	48	39	40	40	42
%3	35	42	29	28	37	38	33	28
%2	14	12	14	14	12	13	14	15
%1 Strongly disagree	3	2	5	0	0	3	3	4
Most Americans have an accurate view of the purpose of my sector of higher education.								
%5 Strongly agree	2	3	1	0	5	3	0	0
%4	15	22	10	14	12	22	9	7
%3	29	27	31	34	21	30	36	31
%2	37	35	38	36	49	33	36	42
%1 Strongly disagree	17	13	20	17	12	12	19	19
Most Americans have an accurate view of the purpose of higher education.								
%5 Strongly agree	1	1	<1	3	5	0	1	0
%4	11	15	8	13	8	16	14	5
%3	38	39	35	37	30	41	32	38
%2	37	36	39	37	46	36	39	41
%1 Strongly disagree	13	9	17	11	11	8	14	17

FEDERAL HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY

The recent change from the Obama administration to the Trump administration could result in a very different approach to higher education policy at the federal level. The Trump administration could undo many of the policies the Obama administration put into place. The survey asked college presidents whether they favor or oppose five Obama-era policies that now face an uncertain fate under Trump.

College presidents largely favor including gender identity among the areas protected by anti-bias laws (76 percent), instituting gainful employment rules for for-profit colleges and some vocational programs at nonprofit colleges (67 percent), and requiring colleges to use a preponderance of evidence standard in evaluating sexual assault allegations (63 percent).

If the Trump administration decided to do away with the College Scorecard or prohibit private college teaching assistants from unionizing, college presidents would likely support those moves. Twenty-nine percent of presidents favor maintaining the College Scorecard, and 12 percent favor permitting the unionization of private college teaching unions.

Public college presidents are more likely than private college presidents to favor all five policies. The largest differences in support are on gainful employment rules, a policy that 79 percent of public college presidents and 58 percent of private college presidents favor. Slightly less than half of private baccalaureate college presidents (46 percent) favor these rules.

Presidents at four-year public institutions are most supportive of anti-bias protections for gender identity, with 9 in 10 favoring that policy.

Public doctoral college presidents show the greatest support for maintaining the College Scorecard, at 45 percent. Seventeen percent of private baccalaureate college presidents want to see the College Scorecard maintained.

Please indicate whether you favor or oppose each of the following recently adopted federal policies that affect higher education.								
	All Institutions by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Including gender identity among the areas protected by anti-bias laws								
% Favor	76	81	73	90	91	76	78	65
% Oppose	24	19	27	10	9	24	22	35
Instituting gainful employment rules for for-profit colleges and for some vocational programs at nonprofit colleges								
% Favor	67	79	58	76	80	76	70	46
% Oppose	33	21	42	24	20	24	30	54
Requiring colleges to use a "preponderance of evidence" standard in evaluating allegations of sexual assault								
% Favor	63	67	58	63	69	71	53	57
% Oppose	37	33	42	37	31	29	47	43
Maintaining the College Scorecard								
% Favor	29	35	23	45	31	33	30	17
% Oppose	71	65	77	55	69	67	70	83
Permitting teaching assistants at private colleges to unionize								
% Favor	12	17	9	6	16	20	5	9
% Oppose	88	83	91	94	84	80	95	91

EFFECTS OF THE TRUMP ELECTION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Donald Trump's victory in the 2016 presidential election surprised most political experts, and most college campuses have felt the election's impact. One in five presidents say that reports of racial incidents on campus have increased since the election, including 32 percent of those at public doctoral institutions and 29 percent at public master's or baccalaureate institutions.

Trump's election sparked protests on many college campuses. To some degree, those protests can serve to promote an image of colleges as intolerant of conservative views. Sixty-six percent of college presidents strongly agree or agree such protests are having this effect.

A majority of presidents, 54 percent, strongly agree or agree that the election exposed that academe is disconnected from much of American society. An even greater proportion of presidents, 69 percent, strongly agree or agree that anti-intellectual sentiment is growing in the U.S.

In addition to assessing what has occurred since the election, the survey asked presidents to predict what might happen in higher education during the Trump administration.

- Three-quarters strongly agree or agree undocumented students may lose the rights they gained during the Obama administration.
- Sixty-nine percent strongly agree or agree that for-profit education is likely to receive less federal scrutiny in the coming years.
- Majorities of presidents also strongly agree or agree that international students may be less likely to enroll at American colleges (58 percent) and that the push to diversify American higher education is likely to recede in public attention and public policy (55 percent).
- Just short of a majority, 49 percent, of college presidents strongly agree or agree the Republican-majority Congress will be unlikely to maintain current levels of support for programs on which their college depends. Twenty-five percent strongly disagree or disagree this will happen.

College presidents also widely believe that President Trump does not accept scientific consensus on many issues — 76 percent strongly agree or agree this is the case.

Public and private college presidents generally hold similar views on the effects of the Trump election. However, public college presidents (62 percent) are more likely than private college presidents (49 percent) to agree that the push to diversify higher education will get less attention. Public institution presidents are also somewhat more pessimistic that the Republican-majority Congress will maintain current levels of support for programs upon which their college relies, 58 percent to 44 percent.

Presidents at public doctoral colleges are less likely than their peers to agree that diversity in higher education will get reduced attention under Trump — 39 percent strongly agree or agree this will occur.

EFFECTS OF THE TRUMP ELECTION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (cont.)

Donald Trump's surprise victory in the 2016 presidential election has prompted much discussion among college leaders.

Using a five-point scale, where 5 means strongly agree and 1 means strongly disagree, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

	All Institutions by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
[President-elect/President] Trump does not accept scientific consensus on many issues, such as climate change.								
%5 Strongly agree	54	57	53	45	58	58	56	44
%4	22	25	20	36	28	21	23	18
%3	9	7	9	10	7	6	7	14
%2	8	7	10	8	3	7	10	14
%1 Strongly disagree	7	5	8	0	4	7	4	10
Undocumented students may lose the rights they gained during the Obama administration.								
%5 Strongly agree	34	39	30	22	26	46	34	23
%4	41	40	42	39	59	32	41	45
%3	15	13	17	24	11	15	17	20
%2	6	6	7	8	4	5	5	6
%1 Strongly disagree	3	2	4	7	0	2	2	6
Anti-intellectual sentiment is growing in the United States.								
%5 Strongly agree	32	33	33	26	42	32	33	29
%4	37	42	33	56	41	37	42	30
%3	15	15	14	15	11	18	10	17
%2	11	7	13	2	5	8	11	14
%1 Strongly disagree	5	3	7	0	1	5	3	8

EFFECTS OF THE TRUMP ELECTION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (cont.)

	All Institutions by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
For-profit education is likely to receive less federal scrutiny in the coming years.								
%5 Strongly agree	30	36	26	28	31	38	26	20
%4	39	31	46	42	38	27	45	56
%3	13	9	15	15	12	8	19	14
%2	13	15	12	15	10	16	7	10
%1 Strongly disagree	5	9	1	0	9	10	2	1
Campus protests after the election have played into an image that higher education is intolerant of conservative views.								
%5 Strongly agree	25	22	28	28	19	23	25	31
%4	41	44	39	47	45	39	41	32
%3	21	21	22	13	25	21	22	24
%2	10	10	9	10	11	11	8	10
%1 Strongly disagree	3	3	2	2	0	5	3	3
International students may be less likely to enroll at American colleges.								
%5 Strongly agree	20	24	15	21	26	22	25	9
%4	38	39	39	35	41	32	41	41
%3	23	21	25	29	21	25	20	24
%2	12	11	12	13	10	13	9	15
%1 Strongly disagree	7	6	9	3	3	8	4	10
The push to diversify American higher education is likely to recede in public attention and public policy.								
%5 Strongly agree	16	20	12	3	25	21	14	11
%4	39	42	37	36	41	39	33	36
%3	23	19	25	41	18	18	27	26
%2	16	15	18	17	13	17	19	20
%1 Strongly disagree	6	4	8	3	3	6	6	7

EFFECTS OF THE TRUMP ELECTION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (cont.)

	All Institutions by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
The election exposed that academe is disconnected from much of American society.								
%5 Strongly agree	21	17	24	19	18	19	25	26
%4	33	38	27	35	39	33	32	25
%3	23	24	23	28	22	27	19	24
%2	16	14	17	12	19	15	18	16
%1 Strongly disagree	8	6	9	6	2	7	6	9
The Republican Congress is unlikely to maintain current levels of support for programs on which my college depends.								
%5 Strongly agree	22	25	21	25	24	25	21	21
%4	27	33	23	32	29	35	26	19
%3	25	19	30	28	29	20	26	31
%2	17	18	17	15	15	13	17	19
%1 Strongly disagree	8	5	9	0	3	7	10	9
Reports of racial incidents on my campus have increased since the election.								
%5 Strongly agree	6	7	6	3	16	4	7	3
%4	14	15	12	29	13	14	14	13
%3	13	16	13	12	18	12	16	13
%2	19	21	18	36	29	16	22	19
%1 Strongly disagree	47	42	52	20	25	54	42	52

SPEAKING OUT ON POLITICAL MATTERS

In higher education, college presidents often refrain from publicly commenting on political issues. The intense and polarizing 2016 presidential election campaign tested that norm. Still, only a minority of presidents, 31 percent, report that they spoke out more on political issues during the campaign than they normally do. A similar percentage, 33 percent, reports speaking more about politics since the election. Public college presidents are slightly more likely than private college presidents to say they spoke out more during the campaign (34 percent to 27 percent) and after the election (37 percent to 29 percent).

Relatively few presidents express regret about not having spoken out more on political issues during the campaign. Just 16 percent say they wished they had done so.

Looking ahead, close to half of presidents, 45 percent, say they intend to speak out more on issues beyond those that directly affect their college, or are already doing so. This includes a slight majority of private doctoral or master's college presidents (51 percent).

Before and after the presidential election, a number of former and current college presidents argued that the issues facing higher education and U.S. society were so significant that campus leaders should abandon their traditional public neutrality and speak out. Others said higher education is best served when college presidents avoid public stands on issues, except those directly related to their institutions, such as spending on student aid.

	All Institutions by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Thinking about your own situation, did you, personally, speak out more on political issues during the 2016 presidential campaign than you typically do?								
% Yes	31	34	27	29	26	37	36	19
% No	69	66	73	71	74	63	64	81
Have you spoken out more on political issues since the election than you typically do?								
% Yes	33	37	29	37	34	36	41	27
% No	67	63	71	63	66	64	59	73
Regardless of how much you did speak out, do you wish you had spoken out more during the presidential campaign?								
% Yes	16	20	12	13	15	20	14	11
% No	84	80	88	87	85	80	86	89
Are you now, or do you intend to, speak out more about issues beyond those that directly affect your college?								
% Yes	45	45	45	41	40	42	51	37
% No	55	55	55	59	60	58	49	63

INSTITUTION AND PERSONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

What is your age?	Overall %
Under 30	0
30 to 39	1
40 to 49	10
50 to 59	33
60 to 69	46
70 and older	10

What is your gender?	Overall %
Male	67
Female	33

How many years have you served as the provost or chief academic officer at this institution?	Overall %
Less than 6 months	2
6 months to less than 3 years	38
3 years to less than 5 years	16
5 years to less than 10 years	24
10 or more years	19

How many years have you served as the provost or chief academic officer at any institution?	Overall %
Less than 6 months	2
6 months to less than 3 years	27
3 years to less than 5 years	13
5 years to less than 10 years	27
10 or more years	32

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