Higher ed opinions divided along party lines.

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Recommended Citation
Higher ed opinions divided along party lines

Until recently, higher education commanded a certain respect in the eyes of most Americans. A 2013 Gallup-Lumina Foundation survey, 72 percent of people in the U.S. thought that to have a college degree was "very important," and 25 percent thought it was "somewhat important." However, that good image has been eroding rapidly. According to the results of a 2014 survey funded by the Knopf Foundation, Americans are increasingly uncertain about the necessity of college for success in the workforce. When asked the question, "Do you think that a college education is necessary for a person to be successful in today's work world?" only 42 percent of Americans said that college is necessary for workforce success -- a 13 percent drop from a similar survey in 2009. Seventy-five percent of Americans said that there are many ways to succeed in today's world without a college degree, a 14 percent lower than in 2009.

What is particularly stunning about this poll is how rapidly Republicans and those who lean Republican have changed their opinion about college. Just two years ago, most Republicans and Republican leaners held a relatively positive view of higher education. In 2014, 54 percent of Republicans said colleges and universities had a positive effect on the country, up from 48 percent in 2012. But in 2016, the majority of Republicans and Republican leaners believe that colleges and universities have a negative effect on the country, up from 47 percent in 2014. The percentage of moderate Democrats who feel that colleges and universities have a positive effect on the country, up from 45 percent in 2014, is now down to 41 percent. The percentage of liberal Democrats who feel that colleges and universities have a positive effect on the country, up from 45 percent in 2014, is now down to 42 percent.

So why is public opinion about the value of higher education changing so fast, and why is it unraveling along party lines? First of all, we need to remember that bad news about higher education is not limited to concerns about the quality of lower-end institutions or the quality of media outlets.

The new fights over affordability, scholarships, race relations, or issues of free speech, colleges and universities have not been dramatically altering the focus of media attention.

According to the 2014 Knopf survey, it was reported that the University of Missouri-Columbia showed a decrease in freshman enrollment of 8 percent over the past two years after the highly publicized scandal involving student protests in 2015. Decreases in enrollment on other campuses have also been widely reported.

Another factor that we must take into consideration is the fact that conservative media have become more assertive in reporting on these incidents and blaming them – correctly or not – on institutions that are widely perceived as liberal. Given that the American public is increasingly obtaining their news from outlets with which their ideology, it’s no wonder that this par- ticular rill in public opinion about colleges and universities is becoming wider and wider.

But let's face it: Many colleges and universi- ties have brought this situation on themselves. As expressed in this column a few weeks ago, the leadership of those institutions has contributed to the series of incidents that occurred to be totally unnecessary, such as banning speakers who do not conform with their ideology.

ASCs have made themselves easy targets for the conservative media.

Another problem has been the way they have handled their marketing in general, emphasizing features that may have little or no benefits of a higher education for both individ- uals and society. It is time for these institutions to realize that education cannot be sold using marketing techniques appropriate for toothpaste or laundry detergent.

Dr. Alderamo Romero Jr.
Letters from Academia

The day will also include drinks and appetizers, and 20 percent of the public think that colleges and universities have a negative effect on the country, up from 6 percent in 2009.

Dr. Alderamo Romero Jr.

Experts expect heavy algae on Lake Erie

Continued from Page 1

According to the poll, while 72 percent of the American public think that colleges and universities have a negative effect on the country, up from 47 percent in 2014.

Market time is 3-4 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday through Oct. 21.

Goshen Market will run Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from 8 a.m. to noon on St. Joseph St. in downtown Goshen. Main Street and North Washington Street.

The market offers locally grown vegetables, fruit, meat, cheese, dairy, bread, baked goods, jams and jellies, along with craft items. No tickets are needed for admission as the produce selection changes daily. Showered with produce as Goshen Market will run Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 8 a.m. to noon on St. Joseph St. in downtown Goshen. Main Street and North Washington Street.

The market offers locally grown vegetables, fruit, meat, cheese, dairy, bread, baked goods, jams and jellies, along with craft items. No tickets are needed for admission as the produce selection changes daily. During the event, the ACS will be wrapping up its location as a group or individual who has been involved in cancer treatment, such as hair loss and skin changes.

During the event, the ACS will be wrapping up its location as a group or individual who has been involved in cancer treatment, such as hair loss and skin changes. The event will be an opportunity for attendees to come together and connect with others who have been affected by cancer.

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