Justice Kennedy’s exit and higher ed

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The recent announcement of the July 1 retirement of Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy has launched a wave of media attention about his accomplishments and the potential appointment of a new justice by President Trump. Let’s not forget where this process began – or rather, where it ended. While John Roberts was appointed in 2005 as way to bridge the cultural divide in 2000, Justice Kennedy’s tenure is now casting its legacy in the light of political influence in an era of post-truth politics.

Kennedy’s appointment in 1987 was the beginning of a new era on the Supreme Court, a period where he has been a leader in expanding civil liberties and human rights. His tenure has been marked by his views on affirmative action and his role in the 2003 decision that struck down mandatory membership fees for public sector unions. He also played a crucial role in the 2015 case in which the Court struck down an Arizona law that barred public-employee unions from using public funds to pay for political activities.

In the name of Kennedy’s legacy, we must reflect on the importance of his contributions to the Supreme Court and the broader field of law. While Kennedy’s passing leaves a void in the court’s membership, his legacy will continue to shape legal precedent and the future of American law.

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