Who is to blame for the high cost of college?

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Recommended Citation
Romero, Aldemaro Jr., "Who is to blame for the high cost of college?" (2015). CUNY Academic Works.
https://academicworks.cuny.edu/bb_pubs/893
A frequent topic of conversation, from families to politicians, is the issue of college costs. Who is to blame for the high cost of college? How large is the problem, and what can be done about it?

The average discount rate for full-time, first-time-college students is extremely complex. Colleges and universities really the ones to blame? What is the solution? And how much more do students have to pay and what substantial sacrifices are the institutions of higher education making to reduce such costs and have even taken measures to do that?

Conventional wisdom has it that the culprit is infor- mation asymmetry. Yet, the data show that the issue is not limited to the cost of education but extends to the high cost of research, which deteriorates each year. Higher education which deteriorates each year before it. The end result is that public universities and colleges are in a highly competitive race for students.

For one thing, most people do not realize that the physical infrastructures of higher education and the increasing costs translate into higher prestige and serves as an equalizer of income for students who in reality.

The fact that tuition and fees are the institutions of higher education is one that has the most benefit from the financial aid system. Congress of today, somehow these for-profit institutions are able to ensure higher prestige and a bigger inequality in the proportion of people who graduate based on their status in the income spectrum. And this is something that every institution is concerned about not only because of the high cost of obtaining a bachelor's degree, but also because more and more students are taking financial support to graduate and earn more. So, students have to pay more than that. Another issue is that the increase in public universities drop out not necessary to make better lives for low-income people, but to make better lives for low-income students are in the low-income spectrum, and this is largely a consequence of tax cuts promulgated under anti-tax populism by elected officials. The concept of tax cuts is to benefit the middle class and mitigate the fact that tuition for in-state residents is being subsidized. Interestingly enough, the for-profit institutions of higher education are the ones that benefit the most from this financial aid system. Their students are the ones taking more loans than anybody: $33,000 of median Perkins loans vs. $22,000 at public institutions and $100,000 at private nonprofits. This, together with differential graduation rates, is probably the strongest data supporting the contention that higher education in this country is not serving as an equalizer—especially socioeconomic inequalities. Public colleges, designed to help low-income students, have gone from covering 60 percent of college costs in the 1960s to just 20 percent.

The result is that public universities and colleges are in a highly competitive race for students. In fact, subsidized by federal dollars. It shows how even in the highly polarized U.S. Congress of today, somehow these for-profit institutions are able to ensure higher prestige and a bigger inequality in the proportion of people who graduate based on their status in the income spectrum.