U.S. Supreme Court takes on Affirmative Action

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Dr. Almedero Romero Jr., director of the University of Texas at Austin, noted showing that minority students who benefit from affirmative action get higher grades at the University of Texas than others and are generally more satisfied with the educational experience. Attendance at a selective institution is also associated with a higher likelihood of career progression from college or graduate school.

According to the Century Foundation, a provocative think tank, roughly thirty thousand students are admitted via affirmative action to more than one hundred selective colleges—mostly better off than they could have been expected to succeed at otherwise. This suggests that affirmative action can be bad for minorities.

The argument is based on an educational theory known as the “mismatch theory of college admissions.” According to this theory beneficiaries of affirmative action are admitted to very competitive colleges may do worse academically and socially than if they were admitted to less competitive colleges that would have considered them on the basis of race or ethnicity.

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