

# The Future of Higher Education

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# The Role of Higher Education

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- Four key issues
  - Public Confidence
  - Cost
  - Access
  - Intercollegiate Athletics



# A (too quick) history of higher education in America

- The European heritage (from the church to serving the elite)
- The early American College—preparing the clergy
  - Harvard
  - Yale
  - Trinity
  - Wesleyan
- Deism and its effect
  - The University of Pennsylvania
  - William and Mary



# The changing definition of the liberal arts

- The seven liberal arts originated in Greek and Roman cultures. By the middle ages they had been grouped as follows:
  - The trivium: grammar, logic, and rhetoric
  - The quadrivium: music, arithmetic, geometry, and astronomy





# The modern liberal arts

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- Today the liberal arts are generally agreed upon to be:
  - Life sciences (biology, ecology, neuroscience)
  - Physical sciences (physics, astronomy, chemistry, physical geography)
  - Logic, mathematics, statistics, computer science
  - Philosophy
  - History
  - Social science (anthropology, economics, human geography, linguistics, political science, jurisprudence, psychology, and sociology)
  - Creative arts (fine arts, music, performing arts, literature)



## History, continued

- The beginnings of the public university
  - The University of Georgia (1785)
  - The University of North Carolina (1789)
- The Morrill Act (1862, 1890) and the rise of the land grant college and university

Goal: to teach “agriculture, mechanics, and military tactics”

  - Michigan State
  - Iowa State
  - The University of Connecticut
  - MIT
  - Tuskegee

# 19th century efforts to educate women and Blacks

- The rise of women's colleges
  - The seminaries and academies
  - Mount Holyoke (1837)
  - Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania (1850)
  - Cherokee Female Seminary (1851)
  - Mill College (1852)
  - Vassar College (1861)
  - Wellesley College (1870)
  - Smith College (1871)
  - Bryn Mawr College (1885)
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities
  - Cheyney University (1837)
  - University of the District of Columbia (1851)
  - Lincoln University (1854)
  - Wilberforce University (1856)
  - Clark Atlanta University (1865)
  - Shaw University (1865)
  - Tuskegee University (1881)



# The GI Bill (1944)

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- An attempt to reward veterans of World War II by providing access to education
- Success: greatly broadened the range and increased the number of people for whom college was a possibility
- Failure: because of Jim Crow laws, it disproportionately favored whites—called by critics “Affirmative Action for Whites”





# Major movements in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century

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- The Civil Rights Act of 1965 and the rise of affirmative action
- Title 9 and the rise of equal opportunities for women
- Picture: Senda Berenson tossing a jump ball (Smith College, 1900)



# Where do we go from here?

- Public Perception of Higher Education
  - Too far left
  - Too expensive
  - Too “woke”
  - Where’s the job for my child?
  
- Picture: Mario Savio at a Free Speech rally at Berkeley 1966





# The Rising Cost of Higher Education

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- Perhaps the hottest flash point for parents and students
- My Trinity experience
  - 1966 \$2,650 per year
  - 2022 \$77,000
- The role of federal student loans and the effects on tuition increases
- Ronald Reagan and the shift from grants to loans





# Accessibility and the End of Affirmative Action

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- Most college and university student bodies are now very representative of the U.S. population, but what happens when and if the Supreme Court ends affirmative action or significantly weakens it?
- Can we make a switch to aid and admissions based on income level?
- Are there other alternatives?







# The Threat to Big Time College Athletics

- Far less important than the other issues we have discussed, but the area in which I am considered an “expert.”
- The growing commercialism and its threat.
- The example of name, image, likeness
- Where do we go from here?





Questions and Comments