

NAE Notes

Quote:

Great universities are not defined by what they do...
...but rather by what they choose not to do!

Public Criticism

Most public criticisms fall into two categories:

i) cost: by assuming all universities cost \$20 K/y

ii) research: all universities do too much research

In reality, most universities (2,900) are inexpensive and do NO research. Only the most elite privates are expensive...and only the research universities do significant research.

Perhaps fewer than 10% of universities do this.

Hence, in reality, the public attack is suggesting that we make these few universities like all the rest...

That we make Harvard more like South Dakota State...

In a sense, the public wants to convert those few institutions they really respect...into those they do not.

If the Harvards and Michigans are doing things so poorly, then why does everyone want their children to attend them...and why do employers always want to hire their graduates?

Gordon Gee:

The difference between whether a university is excellent or elitist depends on whether you child was admitted or not...

Science Education

National longitudinal study shows that the subject area with strongest correlation to earning capacity is advanced mathematics. The more advanced courses one takes, the more they end up earning.

Over half of all industry CEOs have engineering training.