State investment in higher education is plummeting!

THE PROOF

1 - State and local taxes have averaged about 10% of personal income between the mid-1970s and 2009.

2 - Between 1980 and 2013, state fiscal investment in higher education (as a percentage of personal income) dropped by 46.7%.

3 - Between 2008 and 2013, state personal income increased by 15%. But state support for higher education (as a percent of personal income) dropped 11%.

Source: Post-Secondary Education Opportunity, February 2013

CONCLUSION

Our states are in a “Race to Zero” funding for public higher education.

See where your state stands in the Race to Zero in the chart on the reverse of this page.

What state disinvestment means to our students

TUITION UP: The funding for each student that state and local government provided public colleges and universities fell by $2,600, after adjusting for inflation, between 1987 and 2012. During the same time, per-student tuition rose by $2,600.

In other words...

The entire increase in tuition at public colleges and universities over the last 25 years has gone to make up for declining state and local revenue!

During the 20 years between 1991 and 2011 (the latest year for which there is data), median household income grew by about 3%. But tuition at four-year public colleges grew by 159%.

EDUCATION DOWN: This left no additional funding to improve educational programs and services.

DEBT UP: Student debt is now at over $1 trillion, a figure greater than all the credit card debt in this country.

Source: Center for Budget and Policy Priorities

Do states really need to cut higher ed funding?

The data say NO! Profits of corporations are at an all-time high and the income share of the top 1% of households is at the highest level since 1928.

Source: Center for Budget and Policy Priorities

You can help

• Contact your state representatives about these concerns.
• Learn about ways higher education can get the funding it needs—right now! See futureofhighered.org/workingpapers
State Higher Education Investment Reaches Zero by Year Based on Projection of Trend from 2000 through 2013

Source: Post-Secondary Education Opportunity, February 2013