

Questions for “When College Was a Public Good¹”

The Chronicle for Higher Education recently published a thought-provoking article called “When College Was a Public Good” that might be a worthwhile read for your staff. The article asks if it is merely a coincidence that as the population has grown more diverse, support for efforts like the GI Bill, which opened doors to higher education has diminished. Among other things, the article does a great job of laying out the arguments for an increasing college-going imperative. If you want your staff to read the article, consider posing the following questions (or others) to generate dialogue:

1. The article cites reference to “those kids who don’t need college.” What do you think it means? Have you ever heard a similar sentiment in your community?
2. According to the author, what are the stakes if we as a nation do not send more kids off to college?
3. What is the GI Bill? Was it successful? Why or why not?
4. The author cites Anthony P. Carnevale, of Georgetown, as saying that the U.S. “has maxed out on the benefits it can get from its 80-percent high-school-graduation rate,” adding "All the returns to the economy are coming from higher education now," and that "Our ability to expand that is key." What does that mean? What does that mean for our country? What might it mean for future education policy?

¹ The article can be accessed at http://www.chronicle.com/article/When-College-Was-a-Public-Good/238501?cid=wb&utm_source=wb&utm_medium=en&elqTrackId=eaff1eafcdb04225b55518b0c1f5c390&elq=c887061ffa344715bf84e9e670c1852e&elqaid=11614&elqat=1&elqCampaignId=4590