

What's Up in the West?

Benchmarks 2006

Benchmarks

- ▶ Monitor change over time
- ▶ Encourage use of these data as a tool for informed discussion
- ▶ Issue: Access
 - Participation
 - Completion
 - Affordability
- ▶ Issue: Finance

**Are access and equity
eroding or improving in
the West?**



Participation & Completion

- ▶ Nationally, between 1998 and 2002, nearly one in three 9th graders did not make it to 12th grade (Fig. 1).
- ▶ Western states do a little better.
- ▶ Of the 71 9th graders in the West who do graduate from high school, 37 enroll in higher education.
- ▶ But only 16 of 100 9th graders complete an associate's degree within 3 years or a bachelor's degree within 6 years of entering college.
- ▶ These number have changed little since 1998.

- ▶ We are also a little better than the nation on enrolling adult students – but not much (Fig. 2).
- ▶ When looking at the total adult population, the West enrolls just under 5% of adult students as undergraduates versus about 3% nationally.
- ▶ The problem: We have lost ground since 1997 both regionally and nationally.

Equity

- ▶ Successful completion of high school is a major problem among Blacks, Hispanics, and American Indians/Alaska Natives.
- ▶ Between 1997 and 2002, little has changed in the proportion of students surviving from 9th grade to high school graduation (Fig. 3):
 - Whites: 76%
 - Asians/Pacific Islanders: 85%
 - Blacks: 58%
 - Hispanics: 58%
 - American Indians/Alaska Natives: 54%

Equity : Enrollment

- ▶ We've done better for most groups when full-time undergraduate enrollment is compared to the share of each racial/ethnic group in the population (Fig. 4)
- ▶ The ratio exceeds 1 for Whites, American Indians/Alaska Natives, and Asians/Pacific Islanders
- ▶ We've not done well for Hispanics, where the ratio drops to less than 1.

Equity : Completions

- ▶ We're performing poorly on completions for most groups (Fig. 5).
- ▶ When number of bachelor's degrees awarded is compared to the share of each racial/ethnic group in the population, only Asians/Pacific Islanders have a ratio well above 1.
- ▶ The ratio drops well below 1 for Hispanics, Blacks, and American Indians/Alaska Natives.

Equity: Income

- ▶ The West has a lower percentage of undergraduates who receive Pell Grants than the nation as a whole (26% vs. 31%) (Fig. 6).
- ▶ But the nation does better than the West when enrollment of Pell Grant recipients is compared to poverty rates among pre-college aged children.
- ▶ In the West, the share of Pell recipients among all undergraduates in non-profit institutions was 1.62 times the poverty rate of 12-to-17 year olds.
- ▶ That ratio was 1.89 for the nation.

Affordability : Tuition & Fees

- ▶ Tuition and fees as a measure of affordability: the West is doing better.
- ▶ Average tuition and fees in the nation exceed the West's:
 - 4-year: \$5,491 nationally vs. \$4,143 regionally
 - 2-year: \$2,191 nationally vs. \$ 2,177 regionally
- ▶ At public 4-year institutions, resident tuition and fees increased less than the national average last year (\$329 vs. \$365) (Fig. 7).
- ▶ At public 2-year colleges, resident tuition and fees increased regionally more than they did nationally (\$172 vs. \$112) (Fig 7).


Affordability : Household Income

- ▶ The proportion of household income that goes to tuition and fees has increased for all degree levels (Fig. 8).
- ▶ Between 1999-2000 and 2004-05, that share grew from 3.5% to 4.2% for public 2-year tuition.
- ▶ And from 6% to 7.7% for 4-year tuition.

Affordability : Financial Aid

- ▶ Losing ground: slightly less in grant aid per FTE student (Fig. 9).
- ▶ But average amount of state-funded need-based grant aid per FTE is up regionally and nationally in 2003-04 (Fig. 10):
 - \$417 nationally
 - \$324 regionally

**Are revenues sufficient
to meet state needs for
higher education?**

The background features a dark blue-grey gradient. On the left side, there is a faint, light-colored compass rose with a dollar sign (\$) positioned below it. To the right of the compass, a faint line graph with multiple peaks and valleys is visible, suggesting economic or financial data.

Finance : State Appropriations

- ▶ Continued decline in appropriations per FTE (Fig. 13).
- ▶ But West now higher than the nation:
 - FY2004: \$5,789 per FTE regionally
 - FY2004: \$5,721 per FTE nationally

Finance : Higher Ed Revenues

- ▶ Ratio of revenues from tuition & fees and appropriations per FTE has varied in recent years in the West (Fig. 14).
- ▶ Combined revenue per FTE - West
 - FY2004: \$7,883
 - FY1999: \$7,992
- ▶ Nationally:
 - FY2004: \$8,908
 - FY1999: \$9,289

Finance : Tax Revenue

- ▶ Average state tax revenue per capita is increasing (Fig. 15).
- ▶ Grew by 6.3% between 2003 and 2004
- ▶ Now West is nearly equal to national average
- ▶ West per capita income growth:
 - 1994: \$26,656
 - 2004: \$31,154

In Sum...

► Access

- No progress on getting 9th graders to high school graduation—may well get worse before it gets better.
- Going the wrong direction with adult learners.
- Modest progress in getting some racial/ethnic groups into college.
- No progress on getting them out with degrees.
- Holding our own on tuition and fees increases; most Western schools are still a bargain.
- But losing ground on keeping college affordable as a share of household income.
- Little progress on financial aid from grants.

In Sum...

► Finance

- Slippery slope on state appropriations – down.
- Decline regionally is less severe than nationally.
- Dependence on tuition and fees continues to account for a larger share of total revenues compared to appropriations.
- State tax revenue per capita is growing again and rivals U.S. average.