

**Date:** February 12, 2014

**Subject:** Center on Higher Education Reform Report on Access, Affordability, and Graduation Rates

A recent [report](#) published by the The Center on Higher Education Reform at the American Enterprise Institute looks at access, affordability, and graduation rates in higher education across the country. Of the 1,700 four-year institutions examined, only nineteen made the list of institutions with:

1. A net price under \$10,000,
2. A graduation rate over 50 percent, and
3. At least 25 percent of students receiving Pell Grants.

University of Washington (UW) Seattle and UW Bothell both made the list; UW Tacoma missed only because their graduation rate fell slightly below the 50 percent mark.<sup>1</sup>

None of the UW’s peers—Global Challenge State (GCS) peers and other top ten public research universities—are among these nineteen institutions. Although all of our peers have a graduation rate of 50 percent or above and about half of our peers have 25 percent or more undergraduates receiving Pell Grants, none of our peers have the UW’s low net price (as shown in Table 1).

**Table 1: Net Price, Percent of Undergraduates Receiving Pell, and Graduation Rate - UW, GCS Peers, and Other Top 10 Public Research Universities<sup>2</sup>**

| Institution Name <sup>3</sup>                | Net Price <sup>4</sup> | % Pell Recipients | Graduation Rate |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>University of Washington Seattle</b>      | <b>9,395</b>           | <b>25%</b>        | <b>81%</b>      |
| University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill* | 11,092                 | 21%               | 89%             |
| University of Virginia-Main Campus           | 12,672                 | 12%               | 93%             |
| University of California-Irvine              | 12,856                 | 40%               | 86%             |
| University of California-San Diego           | 13,408                 | 46%               | 86%             |
| University of Maryland-College Park          | 14,402                 | 19%               | 82%             |
| University of Michigan-Ann Arbor*            | 14,490                 | 16%               | 91%             |
| University of California-Los Angeles         | 14,857                 | 36%               | 92%             |
| University of California-Davis               | 14,877                 | 43%               | 81%             |
| University of Wisconsin-Madison*             | 15,317                 | 16%               | 82%             |
| Rutgers University-New Brunswick             | 15,922                 | 31%               | 79%             |
| University of Connecticut                    | 16,357                 | 21%               | 82%             |
| University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*  | 16,495                 | 20%               | 84%             |
| University of Massachusetts Amherst          | 18,156                 | 26%               | 70%             |
| University of Colorado-Boulder               | 19,991                 | 18%               | 68%             |

\*Non-GCS, top 10 public research university peers

<sup>1</sup> This is the graduation rate for the first class of freshmen admitted by UW Tacoma in 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Data taken from the Center on Higher Education Reform’s report website ([http://public.tableausoftware.com/views/CollegeRatingsPlan/Sheet1?:embed=y&:display\\_count=no#1](http://public.tableausoftware.com/views/CollegeRatingsPlan/Sheet1?:embed=y&:display_count=no#1))

<sup>3</sup> Only main campus data is presented for peers as the report does not provide aggregate data for universities with multiple campuses.

<sup>4</sup> Net Price is the IPEDS calculation of net price for students paying resident tuition who receive scholarship or grant aid.

Similarly, none of the other Council of President (COP) institutions are among the nineteen institutions on the list. All COP schools have at least 25 percent of undergraduates receiving Pell Grants and most COP schools have a graduation rate of 50 percent or above; however, only the UW’s campuses have a net price below \$10,000 (as shown in Table 2).

**Table 2: Net Price, Percent of Undergraduates Receiving Pell, and Graduation Rate – UW and COP Institutions<sup>5</sup>**

| Institution Name                 | Net Price | % Pell Recipients | Graduation Rate |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|
| University of Washington Seattle | 9,395     | 25%               | 81%             |
| University of Washington Tacoma  | 9,399     | 46%               | 43%             |
| University of Washington Bothell | 9,645     | 34%               | 64%             |
| Eastern Washington University    | 11,499    | 39%               | 46%             |
| The Evergreen State College      | 12,736    | 43%               | 54%             |
| Western Washington University    | 13,920    | 25%               | 67%             |
| Central Washington University    | 14,532    | 36%               | 53%             |
| Washington State University      | 16,327    | 33%               | 67%             |

<sup>5</sup> Again, data taken from the Center on Higher Education Reform’s report website ([http://public.tableausoftware.com/views/CollegeRatingsPlan/Sheet1?:embed=y&:display\\_count=no#1](http://public.tableausoftware.com/views/CollegeRatingsPlan/Sheet1?:embed=y&:display_count=no#1))