

Date: October 4, 2020

To: All Admission's Office Employees

From: Matt Beisler

Re: The State of College Enrollment Across America

As we all know, COVID-19 has had a significant influence on our country, and along with that, has an influence on college enrollment. Due to the pandemic, many students are forgoing enrolling in college temporarily and even some permanently. In this memo, I will discuss the issues facing college enrollment.

Enrollment Changes

Currently, enrollment of undergraduates is down 2.5% across all institutions. The group that declined the most was Native Americans who dropped 8% while White and Black students dropped 6%. Hispanic and Asians dropped 3%. Along with this enrollment of international students have dropped 11.2%. Community colleges have been hit hard with an 8% decline in enrollment. Despite these declines, graduate school enrollment has seen a growth of 14.2 percent.

Distance Education

One of the biggest problems that is causing the decline of enrollment is distance education. Many students are opting out of college for the time being as they feel they can not receive the same quality of education taking online classes as they could taking in-person classes. Many students also opting out due to the costs of education. They feel it is not worth it to pay full tuition to take online classes. Some community colleges faced issues with not having the proper bandwidth to properly offer distance education, causing students to not enroll and in turn, the college losing out on tuition.

International Students

As stated earlier, international students have seen an enrollment decline of 11.2%. This is a big deal for many universities. This is largely caused by many travel restrictions in place due to the pandemic. International students offer universities several benefits. International Students bring in lots of income to universities due to the tuition costs. Some countries offer students scholarships to study in America which helps the Universities get tuitions. Also, International students help diversify campus, allowing for different cultural perspectives in the campus and in the classroom.

Education Costs

Low-income students have seen a decline due to several reasons. Some of these students simply cannot afford to take classes during these times. Some students may not be able to find a job due to the 8.4%

unemployment rate to support tuition costs. Some students are also restricted due to not being able to afford internet to take online courses. Tuition deposits are down 8.4% from families making less than \$60k a year.

College Enrollment has taken a decline this year, mainly due to the COVID and its side effects. Many colleges are forced to only offer distance education which students are not acceptive of. Many students feel it is not worth the tuition and not effective. International students are not able to enroll due to travel restrictions. This is costing colleges valuable tuition money. Other students simply cannot afford to attend college at the moment due to the virus. The declines highlighted seem to be all temporary as they are side effects of the state of the country.