



IHEP

INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY

Highlighting 20 Years of Impact

The **Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)** is founded as an independent voice on issues of postsecondary access and success.

1993

On April 13, 1993, the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) was established to expand college opportunity for the most underserved populations, positioning IHEP as a leading Champion of Access and Success in both the United States and around the world. Our 20th anniversary provides an exciting occasion to reflect on the ways in which our work has strengthened access and success for all students.

This timeline highlights one to two major IHEP contributions per year—just a sampling of our 20 years of impact on the field of higher education policy.

National organizations tap IHEP to study the impact of financial aid policies on student access, evaluate college preparation programs, and design new supports for students in federal and state aid programs.

1994

IHEP's first publications—*The Impact of Federal Financial Aid Policy Changes on Community College Students* and *College Debt and the American Family*—highlight the relationship between financing college and student access and success.

1995

Graduating into Debt: The Burdens of Borrowing for Graduate and Professional Students provides the first, national analysis of graduate student borrowing patterns.

1996

Life after 40: A New Portrait of Today's—and Tomorrow's—Postsecondary Students garners early attention to participation and success patterns of adult learners.

The **New Millennium Project on Higher Education Costs, Pricing, and Productivity** is launched to develop fresh, practical solutions for colleges and universities to increase productivity, maintain quality and access, and manage costs.

1997

Missed Opportunities: A New Look at Disadvantaged College Aspirants identifies obstacles—such as welfare participation, parental divorce, and first-generation status—that redefine the nation's educationally disadvantaged.

Reaping the Benefits: Defining the Public and Private Value of Going to College introduces a multi-dimensional representation of the public and private benefits of a college education.

1998

IHEP advocates for the term “**Minority-Serving Institutions**” (MSIs) to collectively refer to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs).

The Tuition Puzzle: Putting Pieces Together raises alarm over the crisis of rising tuition and encourages states and institutions to curb future price escalation.

1999

IHEP facilitates the launch of **The Alliance for Equity in Higher Education**—a first-of-its-kind partnership of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education—to represent the shared interests of MSIs.

Quality on the Line: Benchmarks for Success in Internet-Based Distance Education establishes a set of research-driven quality standards for distance learning in higher education.

2000

Funding South African Higher Education: Steering Mechanisms to Meet National Goals provides South African policy groups guidance for implementing a new national higher education policy framework and funding mechanism.

A Classification System for 2-Year Postsecondary Institutions offers a new approach to classifying two-year colleges that better accounts for their diversity, size, and purpose.

2001

IHEP builds on its long-term commitment to highlighting the important role TCUs play in meeting the educational and economic development needs of Native American communities in *Building Strong Communities: Tribal Colleges as Engaged Institutions*.

IHEP President and Founder Jamie P. Merisotis receives the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators' (NASFAA) **Robert P. Huff Golden Quill Award** for his contributions to student financial aid research.

2002

The **Kellogg MSI Leadership Fellows** program is established to identify and mentor the next generation of presidents and senior executives for the nation's MSIs.



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Reauthorizing the Higher Education Act: Issues and Options serves as a primer for policymakers debating and developing policy options for key higher education issues.

2003

The colloquium, *Slipping Through the Cracks: The Changing Dimensions of Disadvantage in American Higher Education*, initiates a multi-year effort to spotlight the postsecondary experiences of foster youth, students with disabilities, incarcerated youth, and other marginalized students.

Private Loans and Choice in Financing Higher Education wins NASFAA's Robert P. Huff Golden Quill Award for bringing national policy attention to the rapidly growing reliance on private loans to meet the financial needs of underserved students.

2004

IHEP co-founds the **International Rankings Expert Group** to promote transparency and accountability for institutional ranking systems around the world.

The Investment Payoff: A 50-State Analysis of the Public and Private Benefits of Higher Education shows that investment in postsecondary education has dramatic and measurable impacts on states and their citizens.

2005

IHEP convenes the first of six annual **Summer Academies**, ultimately assisting over 250 institutions in making dramatic improvements to the ways in which they retain and graduate students.

Convergence: Trends Threatening to Narrow College Opportunity in America warns that the confluence of multiple federal, state, and institutional factors will undermine postsecondary opportunity for underserved students in the coming decade.

2006

The **Global Policy Fellows** program is launched to improve the knowledge and skills of international policy leaders—from the United States, Brazil, Mongolia, South Africa, the Netherlands, and Ukraine—working to improve postsecondary opportunities for disadvantaged populations in their home countries.

IHEP unveils a new “brand” and expands its mission as a domestic and global policy leader for postsecondary education.

2007

Opening Doors to the American Dream: Increasing Higher Education Access and Success for Immigrants advocates for the removal of policy barriers encountered by legal immigrants seeking access to U.S. higher education.

The 2005 report, *Learning to Reduce Recidivism: A 50-State Analysis of Postsecondary Correctional Education Policy*, prompts direct federal policy action in support of college opportunities for prisoners.

2008

IHEP partners with USA Funds to facilitate and support the first of four annual **Symposia on Financial Literacy and College Success at Minority-Serving Institutions**.

IHEP assumes leadership of the **Pathways to College Network**, an alliance of national organizations committed to advancing college opportunity.

2009

Diversifying the STEM Pipeline: The Model Replication Institutions Program outlines evidence-based approaches for enhancing and strengthening STEM student success programs at MSIs and other institutions critical to improving the nation's global competitiveness and increasing equity in STEM education.

The **National Coalition for College Completion (NCCC)**, a partnership organization that includes the voice of stakeholders not traditionally included in the college completion agenda, is launched to add critical sectors to the national dialogue. NCCC is later recognized by the **Clinton Global Initiative**.

2010

A year of recognition for IHEP staff: President Michelle Asha Cooper is recognized as a “powerful visionary” by **ESSENCE magazine**, CFAO Lisa M. Stewart receives the **CFO Rising Star Award**, and Vice President for Research Alisa Federico Cunningham receives **NASFAA's Robert P. Huff Golden Quill Award**.

IHEP receives the prestigious **Special Merit Award** from the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE).

2011

Delinquency: The Untold Story of Student Loan Borrowing provides a more complete understanding of student loan burdens facing today's postsecondary borrowers.

Through NCCC, IHEP builds on its **metropolitan statistical area research** to encourage localized student access and success work by showcasing cross-sector and cross-border completion campaigns.

2012

The **National Summit on the Investment Payoff** reinvigorates the national policy dialogue around the investment payoff for underserved students by focusing on how changes in the economic and social conditions over the last decade have impacted the benefits of higher education.

