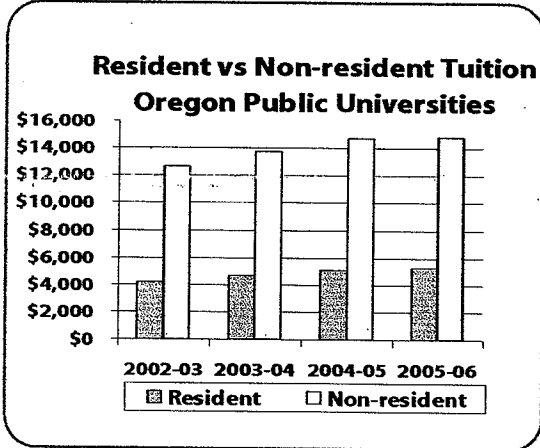




2007 Legislative Fact Sheet Tuition Equity

Best for Our State

We have made the smart commitment to educating all of our children in the K-12 system, but we then squander this investment by pricing some of our brightest students out of a higher education by denying them in-state rates.



This issue is more important than ever for our state:

By 2017-18, **29%** of Oregon 12th graders are estimated to be Latino.

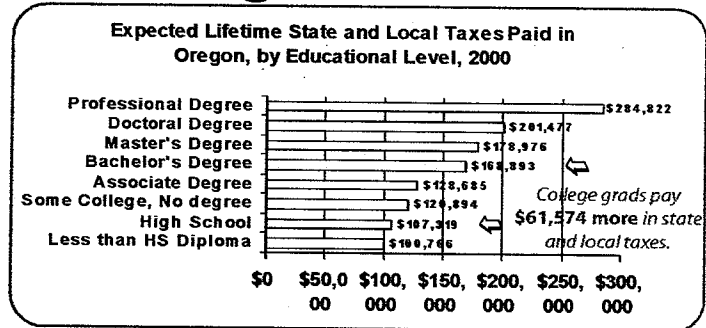
87% of all new jobs in Oregon will require a college degree by 2010.

Tuition equity is a term describing legislation that would

, who:

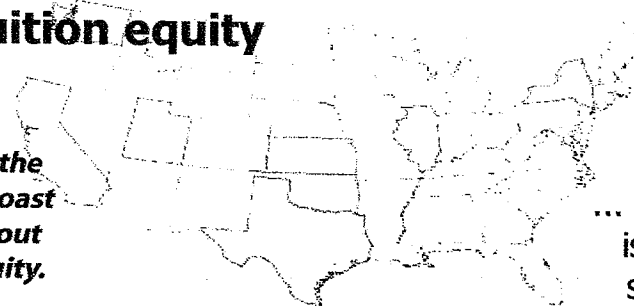
- Attend an Oregon high school for at least 3 years
- Graduate from an Oregon high school
- Are accepted to an Oregon public university, and
- Show that they are working toward residency.

Tuition equity will strengthen our state



At least ten states have enacted tuition equity policies...

Oregon is the only west coast state without tuition equity.



... and legislation is pending in several more.

Pass tuition equity legislation and do what's best for our state. Support Oregonian values: equity of opportunity for those that work hard to succeed.

Tuition Equity

Problem:

Every year Oregon abandons some of its brightest and most talented high school graduates because of their residency status by pricing them out of a higher education. We have made the smart commitment to educating all of our children in the K-12 system, but we then squander this investment by denying undocumented children more affordable in-state tuition rates.

Lacking comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level, Oregon continues to struggle to find a way to best incorporate undocumented Oregonians into our state. One way we are failing is by putting up barriers to a college education for successful students that have been attending K-12 in Oregon for much of their lives and who will continue to live and work here. This issue is ever more important for our state as our demographics and economy change:

- By 2017-18, WICHE (Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education) has estimated that 29 percent of Oregon 12th graders will be Latino.
- 87 percent of all new jobs in Oregon will require a college degree by 2010¹.

Barring opportunity to students who often struggle to overcome substantial barriers to excel in high school represents a major loss for our state.

Solution:

The state's interest in educating its citizens is simple: college graduates return the investment made in their education time and time again. The average college graduate contributes \$61,574 more in state and local taxes of her/his lifetime than a citizen with only a high school degree². College grads also use less social programs: a national study found 30-year-old Mexican women in the United States who graduated from college not only to pay \$5,300 more in federal taxes, but also to cost \$3,900 less in criminal justice or welfare expenses³.

Tuition equity legislation will allow us to remove barriers to a college education for Oregon's undocumented children to help them become contributing citizens after high school. Tuition equity legislation would extend in-state tuition rates by changing OUS residency policy to include all qualified graduates of Oregon high schools, regardless of documentation status, who:

- Attend an Oregon high school for at least three years
- Graduate from an Oregon high school
- Are accepted to an Oregon public university, and
- Show they are working towards residency.

Other states have capitalized on the benefits of tuition equity legislation. Ten states, including those with high immigrant populations such as Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico, committed to tuition equity as early as 2001. In the years that they've functioned under tuition equity legislation, research suggests that these states have seen increases in the percentage of high school graduates who pursue a college degree and additional revenue inflow to their universities from students who would have otherwise not gone to college⁴.

Oregon too would reap benefits by enacting tuition equity legislation, bringing the state and the Oregon University System closer to achieving three goals:

- Keeping the smartest and most talented students in Oregon schools
- Increasing the diversity within Oregon's universities and Oregon overall
- Addressing the needs of an increasingly diverse state population

Many Oregonians have already gotten on board with tuition equity, including members of the broad-based tuition equity coalition such as Latinos Unidos Siempre, American Friends Service Committee, CAUSA, Farmworker Housing Development Corporation, and the Urban League of Portland.

Action:

Pass tuition equity legislation and do what's best for our state. Support Oregonian values: equity of opportunity for those that work hard to succeed.

¹ Oregon University System, Access & Affordability Working Group

² Oregon University System, Access & Affordability Working Group

³ National Immigration Law Center

⁴ National Immigration Law Center