State Financial Support for Higher Education

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The need for a more educated and skilled workforce is raising hence the call to ensure that students are supported to go through their higher education. Higher education is costly and the costs are projected to increase over time. While some students are able to pay the whole higher education costs out of the pocket, others have no such ability hence have to seek for assistance. With the rise in higher education costs, students are bound to seek for financial assistance from different sources to enhance completion of the higher education (Baum, Kurose, & McPherson, 2013). There are many avenues in which students can get financial assistance, with education grants being one of the sources. Higher education grants are free money that do not call for repayment by the recipient, and are need-based. The sources of high education grants include the federal and state governments, professional associations, and colleges and universities.

The state funded higher education grants tends to cater for the financial needs for low-income background students (Toutkoushian & Shafiq, 2010). The state also supports and encourages minority and women students by offering them with financial aid in form of grants. Besides, the state offers the students on careers in high demand such as nursing and teaching with the career-specific grants-for-service. A number of states in the United States tend to offer their students with financial aid for higher education through the student assistance commission or the department of higher education (Johnson, 2013). It is worthwhile to note that the higher education financial aid tends to vary from one state to another.

The state governments continue to experience financial challenges that are brought about by the rising Medicaid expenses and budget deficits that lead to decrease in the financial support for higher education (Finney, 2014). Structural budget deficits among the states has the potentiality of harming all public services, but it has a greater adverse impact on higher education where it leads to cutting institutional appropriations in state programs that are set aside to offer financial aid to students (Toppo, 2019). Given that higher education has the ability to generate its own revenue, during economic downturns, most of the states tend to plea with the institutions to increase the tuition fee (Vossensteyn, 2009). Although this happens during economic downturn, upon economic recovery, the tuition fees are never lowered and the state does not extend its hand to financially support higher education (Leachman & Mai, 2014).

The proposed research intends to provide an in depth discussion of the way states financially support higher education with inclusion of the past, the present and the future trends regarding the state’s support for higher education. Investing in this sector guarantees high returns to the investors, hence the need for states to heavily invest in higher education (Aronson, 2008; Jongbloed et.al, 2008). Additionally, the proposed research will look into the challenges that states are facing in the provision of financial support for higher education, and offer recommendations on how to curb the challenges to increase the extent of state financial support for higher education to enhance meeting the increasing needs for an educated nation (Callender, 2003). The completion of the proposed research will be enhanced by the availability of numerous peer-reviewed sand government sources regarding state financial support for higher education.

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