

# Past, Present, and Future of Land-Grant Universities and the Communities they Were Designed to Serve

## DEEPENING OUR ROOTS

Advancing Community Engagement in Higher Education

Pre-conference: Oct 6–7, 2019 | Conference: Oct 8–9, 2019

DENVER, COLORADO



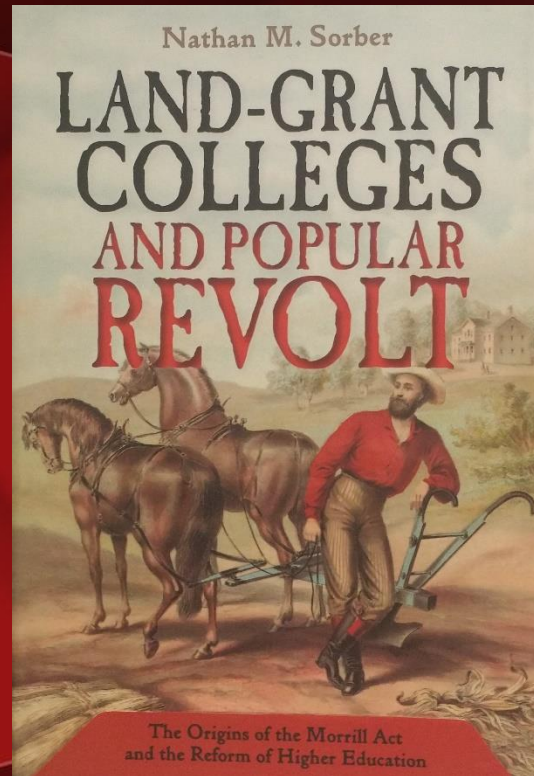
OFFICE OF  
ENGAGEMENT  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



**Nate Sorber**  
**Steve Gavazzi**  
**Gordon Gee**

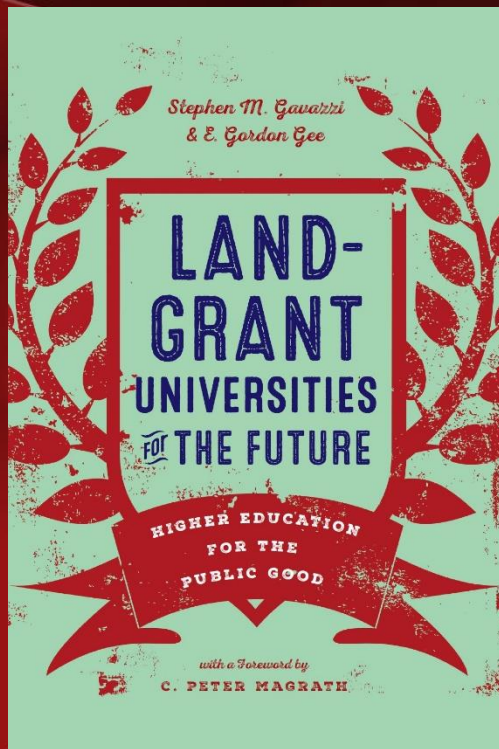
**We are all land-grant fierce!**

# Nate Sorber West Virginia University



## Land-Grant Colleges and Popular Revolt

# Steve Gavazzi The Ohio State University



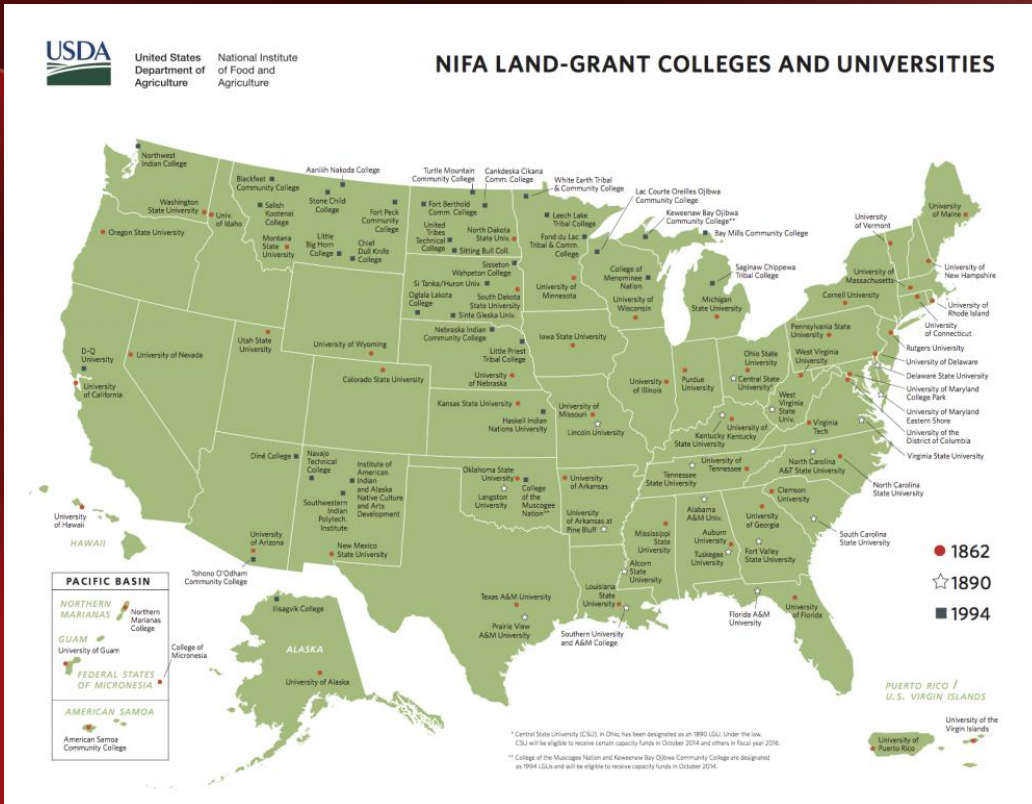
**Land-Grant Universities for  
the Future: Higher Education  
for the Public Good**

# The Ohio State-West Virginia University Land-Grant Study



# 27 Presidents and Chancellors agreed to be interviewed

Balanced representation across the country



# Sample of 27 Presidents and Chancellors

- 4 main questions about the role of the land-grant university in **meeting the specific needs of communities**
  - Strengths
  - Weaknesses
  - Opportunities
  - Threats



# Main findings

**Results of the interviews and beyond**



# Overall Evidence of Conflicting Priorities



**Dynamic tension within 7 distinct  
categories or themes**

# Seven Main Themes

**Reduced Funding vs. Greater Efficiency**

**Research vs. Teaching/Engagement Excellence**

**Basic vs. Applied Research**

**Rankings vs. Accessibility/Affordability**

**Rural vs. Urban**

**International vs. Closer to Home Impact**

**Value of Higher Ed vs. Not Pursuing a Degree**

# Going Beyond the Presidential Viewpoint

## **35 additional interviews, including:**

- Faculty members studying higher ed**
- Elected officials/state lawmakers**
- Accreditation leaders**
- Think tank affiliates**
- Governing board representatives**
- Etc.**

# **The Formula for Higher Education Success**

**Greater Efficiency**

**Teaching/Engagement Excellence**

**Applied Research**

**Accessible/Affordable to all students**

**Community Focused (vs rural/urban)**

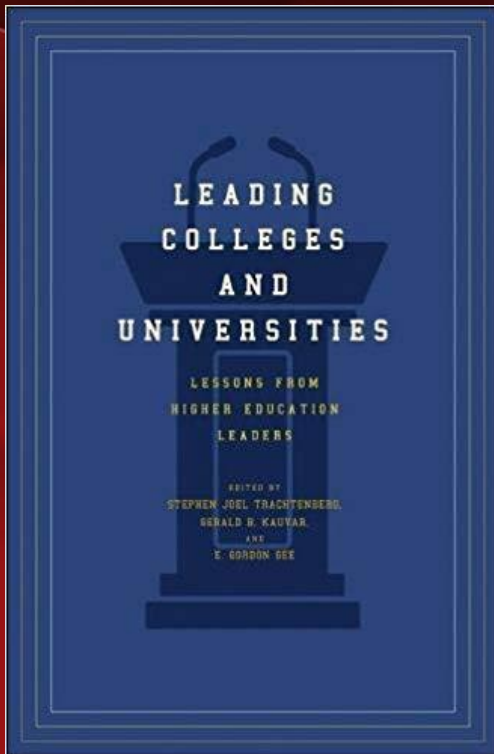
**+ Closer to Home Impact**

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**= Greater ROI for public higher education**

# E. Gordon Gee

## West Virginia University



**Leading Colleges and  
Universities: Lessons from  
Higher Education Leaders**

**So, who's feeling land-grant fierce  
right now?**



**Question and Answer Period**