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

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

DENVER, COLORADO
We are all land-grant fierce!
Nate Sorber
West Virginia University

Land-Grant Colleges and Popular Revolt

Land-Grant Colleges and Popular Revolt

The Origins of the Morrill Act and the Reform of Higher Education
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
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