
A TEST OF LEADERSHIP

Charting the Future of U.S. Higher Education

Presented by:

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MICUA Applauds the Commission for:

- Recognizing of the importance of postsecondary education, not only to the individual but to our nation's future competitiveness;
- Increasing the awareness of the need to engage in a national effort to attract students to the STEM disciplines;
- Emphasizing increased access for underserved students and underserved geographic regions;
- Recommending deregulation of higher education at the state and federal levels; and
- Articulating the importance of globally literate students.

The report criticizes America's system of higher education for:

- Inadequate student learning;
- Lack of innovation;
- Poor institutional cost management;
- Inefficient use of facilities;
- Limited accountability; and
- Poor alignments between high school and college.

Furthermore, the report describes student financial aid programs at the state, federal and institutional levels as confusing, complex, Inefficient, and duplicative.

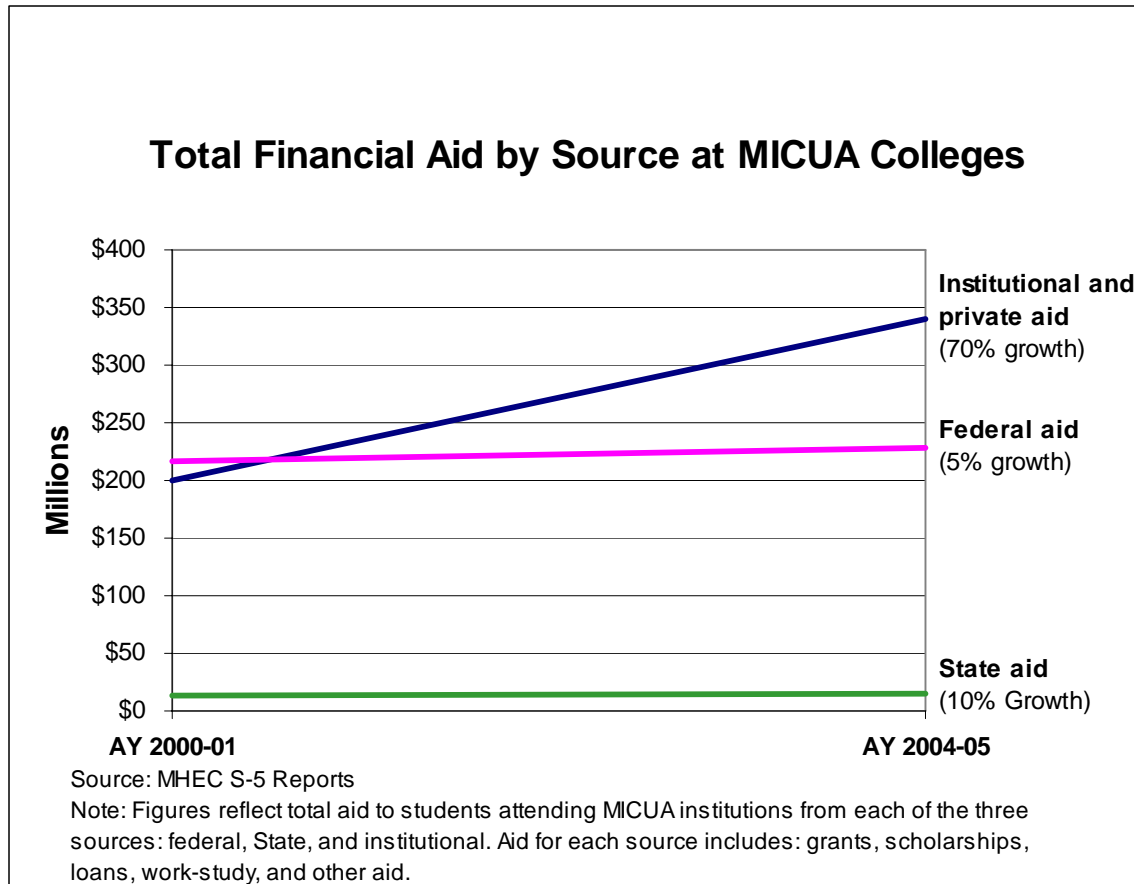
The report contains a series of recommendations to:

- Expand access and improve success;
- Improve institutional cost management;
- Create accountability and transparency;
- Increase global awareness and competitiveness; and
- Transform higher education through change and innovation.

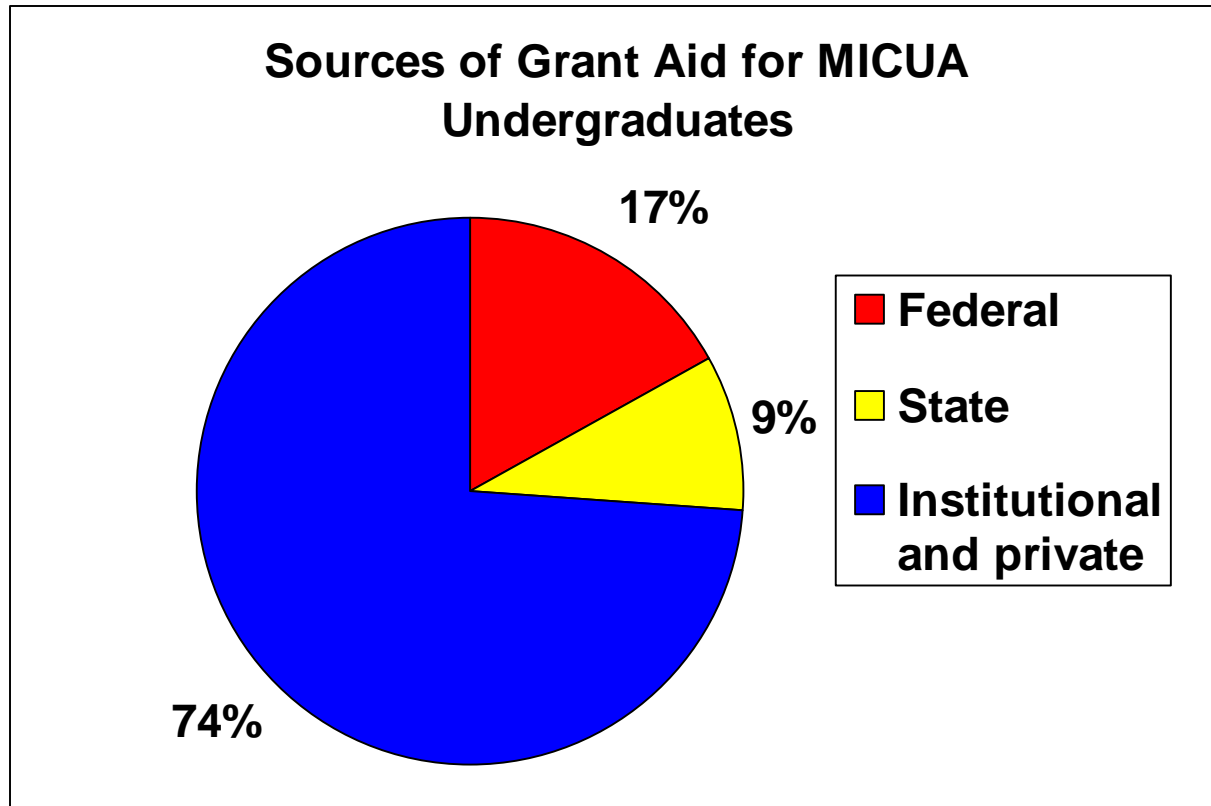
Expanding Access

- In 2005, MICUA headcount enrollment crossed the 50,000 threshold.
- Fulltime undergraduate enrollment increased 42% from 1995 to 2005.
- Same period, African-American student enrollment increased by 90%.
- Fourteen percent of MICUA's students are 40 years of age or older.
- Nine percent of new undergraduate students transferred to a MICUA institution from a Maryland community college.

Expanding Access



Expanding Access



The vast majority of need-based grant aid to undergraduate students at Maryland's independent institutions is provided by the institution (74%).

Improving Success

- MICUA member institutions have the highest graduation rates in the State. Most students graduate within four years.
- Several institutions have initiated mentoring and support programs for underserved student populations.
- Half of the MICUA institutions have eliminated the achievement gap between African-American students and the general population.

Improving Institutional Cost Management

- MICUA launched five collaborative purchasing programs with Shared Services:
 - Property & casualty insurance;
 - Student health insurance;
 - Group life insurance;
 - Long-term disability insurance; and
 - Student tuition payment plans.

Improving Institutional Cost Management

- Collaborative Purchasing
 - Several MICUA member institutions participate in collaborative purchasing arrangements through Group Purchasing Organizations (GPO), which are designed to leverage the national buying power of institutions of higher education.
 - MICUA is pursuing a segmental collaborative purchasing arrangement to allow all member institutions to participate in a Group Purchasing Organization (GPO) at a minimal cost.
- *National Center for Higher Education Management Systems – Efficiency in Education Rating*
 - Maryland’s public and private research institutions rank sixth in the nation for “efficient use of funds.”

Create Accountability and Transparency

- Every MICUA member institution is accredited through the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Universities.
- Many departments within the MICUA institutions are accredited by specialized accrediting agencies.
- Outcomes-based learning assessment is a critical component of these accrediting activities.
- JHU is working with the American Association of Universities to develop appropriate measures of student learning for research institutions.

Create Accountability and Transparency

- Nine MICUA member institutions participate in the National Survey of Student Engagement, which serves as a proxy for the value and quality of a student's undergraduate experience.
- A vast amount of institutional information is publicly available through the federal Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).
- For example, JHU submits over 9,400 data elements to IPEDS.
- MICUA is participating in a national effort to develop a common data template to present institutional information in a concise, consumer-friendly manner as a proactive response to calls for greater accountability and transparency.

Increase Global Awareness and Competitiveness

MICUA colleges and universities offer a wide range of opportunities to help students develop global awareness, including films, lectures, cultural events, study abroad, and interactions with globally diverse students.

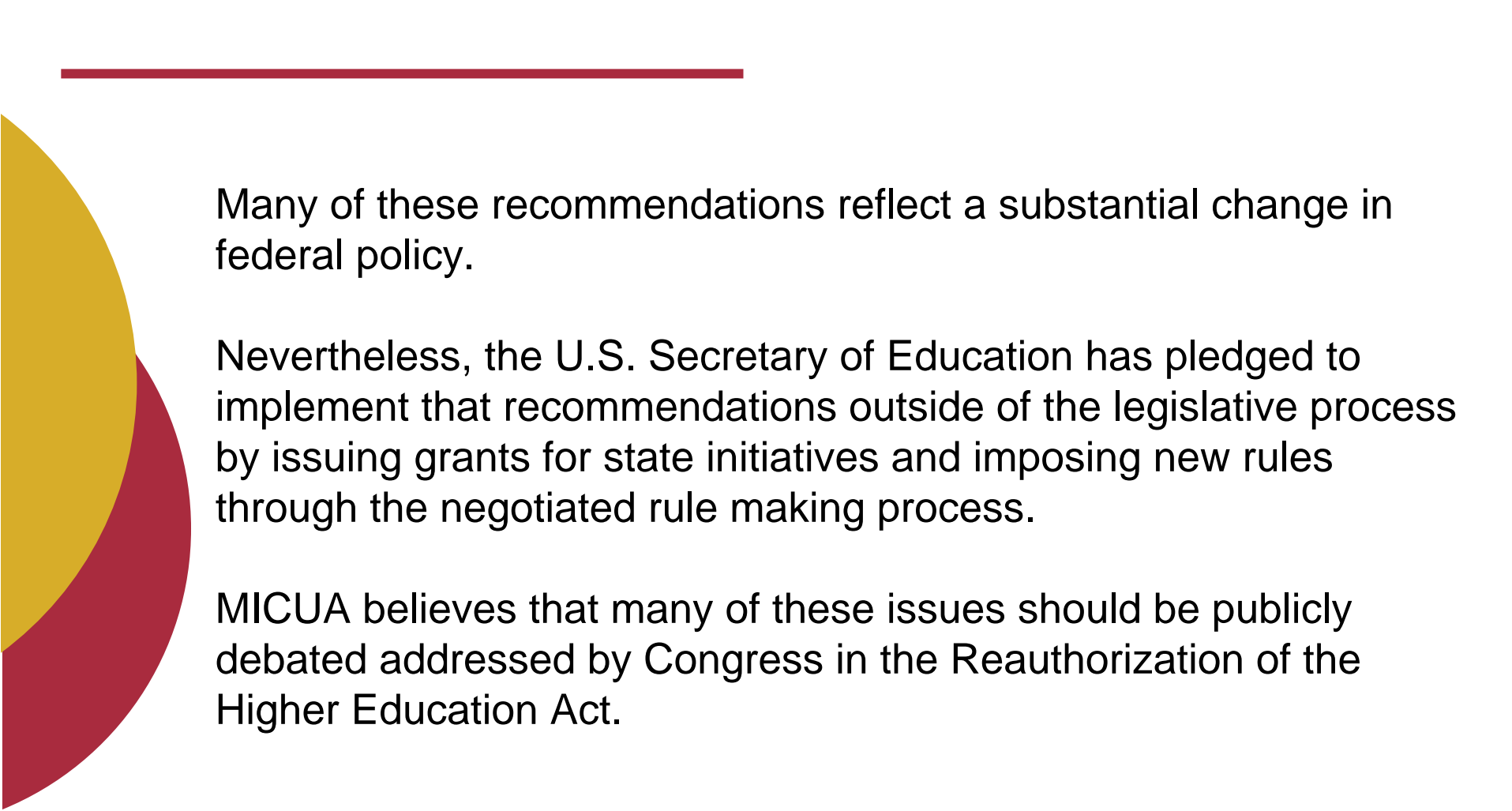
- In 2006, Goucher College became the first college in the nation to require all of its undergraduate students to study abroad at least once before graduation.
- JHU – K-12 Education Council is developing a new curriculum to make STEM disciplines more attractive to young students.
- Capitol College and Goddard operate a six-week-long pre-engineering program for minority high school students to attract students to Engineering and Technology discipline.

Transform Higher Education through Change and Innovation

- MICUA institutions were early innovators in creating “incubators” where faculty can conduct research and other activities to transfer to commercial ventures.
- MICUA institutions are developing centers of excellence in emerging fields of study such as nanotechnology, advanced materials, information technology, and stem cell research.
- MICUA institutions are seeking new ways to facilitate transfers through dual admission programs, guaranteed transfer placement, targeted transfer students recruitment, and “two plus two” programs.

MICUA has concerns with some of the Commission's recommendations:

- The Commission advocates for an outcomes-based learning assessment that are comparable across institutions.
- The Commission calls for the creation of a student unit record data system, which raises issues about privacy, security, liability, and costs to students and taxpayers.
- The Commission makes recommendations that erode institutional autonomy and expand federal authority over institutional responsibilities, such as:
 - Transfer of credits;
 - Awarding of credits;
 - Accreditation process; and
 - Institutional finances.

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Many of these recommendations reflect a substantial change in federal policy.

Nevertheless, the U.S. Secretary of Education has pledged to implement that recommendations outside of the legislative process by issuing grants for state initiatives and imposing new rules through the negotiated rule making process.

MICUA believes that many of these issues should be publicly debated addressed by Congress in the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.