



## **NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS COMMENT ON 2007 TRENDS IN COLLEGE PRICING AND STUDENT AID**

**David L. Warren, President**  
**National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities**

“This year’s average increase in private-college tuition and fees matches last year’s rate of 6.3 percent. Grant aid provided by private colleges and universities to undergraduates was an estimated \$13.8 billion in 2006-07, an increase of 7.8 percent from the previous year. Because of our commitment to providing a quality education at the lowest possible out-of-pocket cost, this year’s average net tuition (published price minus grants and tax benefits) for a student at a private college is 40 percent below the average published tuition — \$14,400 vs. \$23,712.

“In recent years, private colleges and universities have taken innovative steps to control costs and to keep tuition increases as low as possible. As a result, the 14 percent inflation-adjusted increase in published tuition and fees at four-year private institutions in the last five-year period is the lowest in 25 years.”

**Peter McPherson, President**  
**National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges**

“Leaders of America’s public research universities continue to be concerned about the impact that the cost of attending college has on students and their families. I know from personal experience, during my tenure as president of Michigan State, the tremendous efforts that public university presidents make to contain costs and tuition increases.

“While each public university has its own unique situation, state appropriations still remain a critical element to containing tuition increases. This year’s College Board report clearly demonstrates the relationship between state appropriations and tuition and fees. Over the past five years, changes in state appropriations for public universities have had a strong correlation to the changes in tuition and fees.

“At the end of the day, our public research universities remain an excellent value for students, with a net cost of \$2,600 for an average full-time student after student aid and tax benefits are considered.”

**David Ward, President  
American Council on Education**

“Despite some slight variation, today’s report from the College Board shows that the rate of increase in college tuition has remained relatively stable for the last five years. In fact, the rate of increase at public four-year institutions is down significantly since 2002-03, and I am heartened to see that the average tuition increase at community colleges was less than \$100. The College Board data also show that the amount of institutional aid provided by colleges and universities increased 7 percent over last year and the total amount has nearly doubled over the last 10 years.

“Still, it is clear from the data on tuition increases at both public and private four-year institutions that more work needs to be done. We hope that state governments — which really set tuition prices at most public colleges and universities — will do their part to reinvest in higher education and keep their commitment to the financing partnership with institutions and the federal government.”

**Dallas Martin, President  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators**

“NASFAA is concerned that college costs continue to increase at a faster rate than increases in financial aid. This trend is especially harmful to America’s lower-income families, who increasingly rely on alternative or private education loans, which can carry high interest rates. The increasing gap between financial aid and the cost of college can also prevent lower-income students from pursuing their higher education goals. NASFAA is encouraged by recent legislation that increases the federal government’s investment in financial aid, but Congress and the administration must do more to increase financial aid and target that aid to the neediest students. America’s future depends on it.”

**Constantine W. (Deno) Curris, President  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities**

“The College Board’s ‘Trends in College Pricing’ and ‘[Trends in] Student Aid’ reports provide valuable and timely information on college costs and the affordability of higher education in the United States.

“Tuition and fee increases for in-state students at all four-year public colleges and universities increased a modest \$381 more than in 2006-07. Historically, tuition and fee increases at AASCU institutions have been lower, on average, than those of other four-year colleges and universities — a trend reflecting the mission of AASCU colleges and universities to promote access and student success.

“However, access and opportunity issues remain a barrier for low-income students concerned about taking on debt to finance their education. While 2005-06 witnessed some recovery in the growth of state and local appropriations across the country, appropriations are still 4 percent lower than they were 10 years ago.

“AASCU will continue to advocate for access and opportunity and will work to improve support for public higher education as a policy priority on state agendas.”