

The Boston Globe

Colleges should be measured on performance, not their tax status

Letters to the Editor - September 16, 2012

Every point made in the Sept. 9 editorial on student debt is correct, and describes positive social values ([“For-profit colleges need closer scrutiny”](#)). But the nonprofit vs. for-profit distinction should not be a standard of evaluation. Post-secondary institutions should be measured on performance; tax status is immaterial. Colleges are enterprises. “Operating surplus” at nonprofit colleges is profit with a different name.

College student debt is really about two things: the outrageous escalation of the cost of college degrees, and the disconnect between those degrees and their value in the workplace. The larger issue is why degrees at state and private institutions cost \$150,000 and more.

At Neumont University, our student loan default rate is low, graduation rates are high, and more than 95 percent of our graduates are employed in their field — computer science — upon graduation. What’s more, we have not raised tuition for five consecutive years. We are proud to be a nimble, surplus-generating, for-profit educator where student outcomes are our priority, and employers have a seat at the table.

Edward H. Levine

President

Neumont University

South Jordan, Utah