The higher purpose of higher education is real

In the last few weeks we have witnessed a number of political debates that have become part of the national discussion on issues such as healthcare, immigration, infrastructure, freedom of speech, the media and truth itself. What is the connection between these topics and higher education? It is much more obvious than you might think.

National progress – economic, social and individual – depends on winning these debates. Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, large parts of the nation’s transportation system, as well as the public education system, have all been heavily funded by the federal government through taxation. The rationale for this funding is that all of these programs and institutions provide services for the common good. The government has developed legislation that set the parameters under which they operate and are funded.

And this is not unique to this country. Other developed nations have had similar support systems; some to an even larger extent than in the U.S. Why? Because we, as a culture, believe that some things are not only better, but are also necessary. In the eyes of all these nations, education is a necessary governmental expenditure.

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