

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO
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Subject: How U.S. News college rankings promote economic inequality on campus

A POLITICO review shows that the criteria used in the U.S. News rankings - a measure so closely followed in the academic world that some colleges have built them into strategic plans - create incentives for schools to favor wealthier students.

POLITICO interviewed more than 20 current and former college presidents, administrators and federal education officials, and all agreed, often in fiery terms, that the lack of economic diversity is a critical problem. Many cited a common culprit - the U.S. News rankings, which began in 1983 and quickly grew to become, in the magazine's own words, "the 800-pound gorilla of American higher education."

"I think U.S. News has done more damage to the higher education marketplace than any single enterprise that's out there," said F. King Alexander, president of Louisiana State University.

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