

**OCPA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS REPORT
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AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN THE NEWS:

(November 30, 2001, Section: Government & Politics, Page: A23)

NAACP Issues Ideas for Reducing Inequities in Education

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People issued wide-ranging recommendations for reducing racial inequities in educational quality, access, and achievement.

The Association's recommendations include:

- Promoting affirmative-action policies in states where race is still allowed to be a factor in college-admissions decisions, and oppose alternatives to traditional affirmative action, such as systems based on income or university policies that admit a set proportion of students at each high school
- Increasing the amount of available financial aid and intensifying recruitment at minority-dominated high schools in states where affirmative-action policies have been outlawed
- Requiring athletes to be graduation-bound to maintain eligibility for their sport
- Improve the recruitment and retention of minority faculty members
- Encouraging colleges to be more careful in their use of standardized tests in admissions
- Emphasizing that the maximum value of the Pell Grant be increased and that need-based grants be given legislative priority over subsidized loans
- Create a mechanism to rate how well colleges and universities are confronting racial inequities at their institutions, ratings that will lay the groundwork for possible legal action

(November 23, 2001, Section: Government & Politics, Page: A24)

Broader Admissions Criteria Near Approval at U. of California

The University of California Board of Regents will likely approve an overhaul of the system's admissions process that would drastically broaden the criteria on which applicants are evaluated and would put an end to decision making based solely on academic factors.

Current Process: Under a two-tier selection procedure, each of the system's nine campuses admits from 50 to 75 percent of its incoming students based solely on academic criteria, such as grades, test scores, and performance in honors or Advanced Placement courses. The remainder of each class is selected using both the academic factors and other criteria, including special talents, experiences with adversity, and the location of each applicant's high school.

Proposed Process: The two-tier system disappears. All applicants are evaluated on a single set of criteria, which include the old system's academic factors as well as the personal attributes formerly used only to judge students in the second tier of the admissions pool.

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U. of Georgia Won't Appeal Affirmative-Action Case to Supreme Court

The University of Georgia announced that it would not ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review a federal appeals-court decision that struck down the institution's use of race in some undergraduate admissions decisions.

(November 2, 2001, Section: Government & Politics, Page: A32)

Full Appeals Court Will Consider U. of Michigan Affirmative-Action Case

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit has decided that all nine of its judges, rather than a three-judge panel, should take up the appeals of two lawsuits challenging the University of Michigan's use of affirmative action in admissions. There is a strong possibility that the U.S. Supreme Court may revisit the issue of affirmative action in college admissions, especially considering that circuit courts around the nation have issued widely divergent opinions on the subject. Any decision reached by the Sixth Circuit -- which encompasses Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee -- is likely to conflict with at least one of the other circuit courts' decisions, increasing the need for, and the likelihood of, involvement by the Supreme Court.

(October 26, 2001, Section: Government and Politics, Page: A32)

Study Documents Impact of Affirmative Action at Colleges in New England

The study is available on the Nellie Mae foundation's Web site (<http://www.nmefdn.org>).

9.11: The Impact on the College Students

- David N. Sattler, a psychology professor at Western Washington University, recently asked college students in 4 cities across the county how they were coping in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks (*The Chronicle of Higher Education*, November 9, 2001). He found that the following percentages of students are:

	4-city average
Displaying the American flag	64%
Setting new priorities about what is important in life	77%
Donating money to charity	44%
Counting on others in times of trouble	74%
Praying more	47%

- Numerous scholarships have been established to provide scholarship funds for postsecondary education to dependents and spouses of people killed in the terrorist attacks of September 11:
 - More than 10,000 people who lost a parent will eventually want to pursue education beyond high school and the gap in the ability of those students to pay for college, according to early actuarial projections, could total from \$350-million to \$550-million (*The Chronicle of Higher Education Daily News*, October 25, 2001).
- ROTC students number 200,000 nationwide and ROTC officials report that student interest in the program has increased in the last 12 months, particularly since September 11. However, ROTC officials note that an increase in interest does not always result in an increase in enlistments (*The Chronicle of Higher Education Daily News*, November 16, 2001).

Issues Affecting International Students

- The State Department is planning extra scrutiny of Visa requests from men in Arab countries to provide time to compare their applications against lists of people on various government watch lists. The time delays will affect applicants in 26 countries, including Afghanistan, Algeria, Indonesia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (*The Chronicle of Higher Education Daily News*, November 12, 2001).
- City University of New York will raise tuition second semester for students who are illegal immigrants, ending a 12-year old policy of allowing foreigners who have attended New York State high schools to pay lower in-state tuition. This will affect at least 2,788 of the 200,000 students on the university's 20 campuses (*The Chronicle of Higher Education Daily News*, November 5, 2001).
- The House of Representatives passed H.R. 2975 on October 12 giving the authorities more power to view students' personal records, but lawmakers also approved provisions sought by college lobbyists to protect student-privacy rights (*The Chronicle of Higher Education Daily News*, October 15, 2001).
- Foreign students will be expected to help pay for a new database tracking-system for individuals with student visas. A 1996 federal immigration law requires the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to fully establish such a system by 2003, with a one-time \$95 fee imposed upon foreign students who want to attend American universities (*The Chronicle of Higher Education Daily News*, October 15, 2001).
- About 200 colleges have released information about their foreign students to federal and local authorities investigating the September 11 terrorist attacks. Most of the information has been voluntarily turned over, without subpoenas (*The Chronicle of Higher Education Daily News*, October 12, 2001).
- On campuses across the country, many Arab students in the U.S. head back to their home countries with the growing hostility on college campuses (*The Chronicle of Higher Education Daily News*, September 28, 2001).