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Myths of Private Higher Education Exploded in PHEAA Publication for School Counselors

Popular perceptions about the affordability, diversity and educational success of private colleges and universities are put to the test factually in a National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities publication. The article was called, "Twelve Facts That May Surprise You About America's Private Colleges and Universities." Some of the most interesting findings are:

- Thanks to grants and scholarships, most students pay less than the published tuition at private colleges
- The average tuition students pay has declined over the past decade (subtracting for grant aid and adjusting for inflation).
- Most financial aid received at private colleges is based on financial need.
- The proportion of students from racial and ethnic minorities at private colleges is almost the same as at four-year state institutions.
- The proportion of low- and middle-income students is almost the same as at four-year schools
- Students who work full time, have a high school equivalency diploma, or face other challenges are far more likely to graduate from a private college than a state institution.
- All types of students are as likely to earn their degree in four years at a private college as they are in six years at a state institution.
- Students who earn bachelor's degrees are able to do so sooner at private colleges than at state institutions, avoiding the additional tuition and beginning their careers earlier.

The complete publication with documentation can be downloaded from <http://www.khake.com/page94.html>.