

This is Google's cache of <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/apr/2/tax-dollars-driving-costs-college-education/>. It is a snapshot of the page as it appeared on Oct 25, 2020 06:30:19 GMT. The [current page](#) could have changed in the meantime. [Learn more.](#)

[Full version](#) [Text-only version](#) [View source](#)

Tip: To quickly find your search term on this page, press **Ctrl+F** or **⌘-F** (Mac) and use the find bar.

[Skip to content](#)



Reliable Reporting. The Right Opinion.

[Subscribe](#)

[Give a gift](#)

Sign In

- [News](#)
 - [Politics](#)
 - [COVID-19 Updates](#)
 - [National](#)
 - [World](#)
 - [Security](#)
 - [Business & Economy](#)
 - [D.C. Local](#)
 - [Media Spotlight](#)
 - [Inside Politics](#)
 - [Inside the Beltway](#)
 - [Waste, Fraud & Abuse](#)
 - [Inside the Ring](#)
 - [Culture](#)
 - [Entertainment](#)
 - [Technology](#)
 - [Obituaries](#)
 - [Just the Headlines](#)
 - [Trump Central](#)
 - [Campaign 2020](#)
 - [Photo Galleries](#)
 - [Dive Deeper](#)
- [Policy](#)
 - [Energy & Environment](#)
 - [Banking & Finance](#)
 - [Health Care Reform](#)
 - [Second Amendment](#)
 - [Immigration Reform](#)
 - [Homeland & Cybersecurity](#)
 - [Aerospace & Defense](#)
 - [Taxes & Budget](#)
 - [Law Enforcement & Intelligence](#)
 - [Transportation & Infrastructure](#)
- [Commentary](#)
 - [Commentary Main](#)
 - [Editorials](#)
 - [Letters](#)
 - [Pruden on Politics](#)
 - [Charles Hurt](#)
 - [David Keene](#)
 - [Tammy Bruce](#)
 - [Ralph Z. Hallow](#)
 - [Scott Walker](#)
 - [Michael McKenna](#)
 - [Cal Thomas](#)
 - [Clifford D. May](#)
 - [Cheryl K. Chumley](#)

- [Joseph Curl](#)
- [Everett Piper](#)
- [Daniel N. Hoffman](#)
- [Robert Knight](#)
- [Rapid Reactions](#)
- [Tim Constantine](#)
- [Books](#)
- [Cartoons](#)
- [U.S.-Russia Crosstalk](#)
- [Sports](#)
 - [Sports Main](#)
 - [Washington NFL Team](#)
 - [Football](#)
 - [Baseball](#)
 - [Basketball](#)
 - [NCAA](#)
 - [Thom Loverro](#)
 - [Tennis](#)
 - [Golf](#)
 - [Hockey](#)
 - [Soccer](#)
 - [Horse Racing](#)
 - [NASCAR & Racing](#)
- [Special Reports](#)
 - [Special Reports Main](#)
 - [To the Republic](#)
 - [Biking the battleground](#)
 - [COVID-19 Updates](#)
 - [Losing our religion](#)
 - [Qatar](#)
 - [Energy 2019](#)
 - [Infrastructure 2019](#)
 - [Faith & Family](#)
 - [Free Iran Global Summit](#)
 - [Reinventing Globalization](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
 - [Podcasts Main](#)
 - [Front Page Podcast](#)
 - [Politically Unstable](#)
 - [Andy Parks](#)
 - [Campaign 2020](#)
 - [Bold & Blunt](#)
 - [The Rebellion](#)
- [Games](#)
 - [Games Main](#)
 - [Play Sudoku](#)
 - [Crossword Puzzle](#)
 - [Word Search](#)
 - [Quizzes](#)

Listen Now

[NEW EPISODE! Campaign 2020 podcast with George Gerbo](#)

TRENDING:

[Donald Trump](#)

[Joe Biden](#)

[Senate](#)

[Los Angeles Dodgers](#)

[Amy Coney Barrett](#)

- [Joseph R. Biden](#)
- [The World Series](#)
- [Miami](#)
- [White House](#)
- [U.S. Senate](#)

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [National](#)

Tax dollars driving up costs of college education

Study finds government spending creates incentive for hikes

Follow Us    

Search

Search Keyword:




Sign Up For Our Daily Newsletters

Front Page Podcast

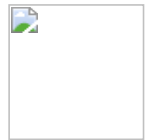


FRONT PAGE 

THE WASHINGTON TIMES FRONT PAGE
with GEORGE GERBO October 26, 2020 00:00:00

Recommended



[Thin blue line lining up behind Trump: ‘This is make-or-break for law enforcement’](#)



[Quiz: How much do you know about U.S. presidents?](#)



[‘America’s Forgotten’: Democrat director discovers horrors of illegal immigration while making film](#)



[Quiz: Can you name the actors who played these 1980s TV characters?](#)



[North Korea's tyrant threatens Trump with new ballistic missile capable of targeting U.S.](#)

SPONSORED CONTENT



[This unique, American-made survival rifle is perfect for your go-bag](#)

SPONSORED CONTENT



[How To: Fix Dark Spots And Uneven Skin Tones](#)

Commentary



[Cheryl K. Chumley](#)

[Bernie Sanders as Biden's labor secretary would devastate America](#)



[Michael McKenna](#)

[Doug Collins the right candidate to fill Georgia's Senate seat](#)



[Everett Piper](#)

[Charting the decline of universities: LGBTQ+ sexual ethics fail logic and reason](#)

[View all](#)

Question of the Day

Who won the final presidential debate?

Question of the Day

Joseph R. Biden
 Donald J. Trump
 Tie

[View results](#)

Story TOPics

- [Business_Finance](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Department Of Education](#)

The Empire Beauty School, a for-profit college, is seen Wednesday, April 19, 2017, in Portland, Maine. (AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)
 FILE

The Empire Beauty School, a for-profit college, is seen Wednesday, April 19, 2017, in Portland, Maine. (AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)
 FILE [more >](#)

By [James Varney](#) - The Washington Times - Tuesday, April 2, 2019



From seminaries to beauty schools, taxpayers are financing the schooling of millions of students, and the flood of public dollars is driving up the cost of education, critics charge.

A study released Wednesday on [Department of Education](#) spending drives that point home, according to OpenTheBooks, a nonprofit dedicated to transparency in government spending.

In many cases, the spending is exactly what one would expect. The City University of New York system collected \$1.2 billion in federal money in 2017, with \$315 million in student loan payments and most of the rest in direct payments. California State University also cleared \$1 billion, with almost all of that in student loan payments.

TOP STORIES

[Ga. state rep mocked after apparently confusing Trump's 'coyotes' remark with animal](#)
[Trump team pushes back after Biden blasts 'chumps' who support the president](#)
[Chelsea Handler: 50 Cent 'can't for vote Donald Trump' because he's Black](#)

But more than \$700 million went to hair, beauty and cosmetology institutions, including \$65.6 million in payments to Empire Beauty School, which has 88 locations in 21 states. A year at Empire Beauty Schools costs \$28,680, the school says, although it advertises aid packages to bring the price tag down to \$20,910.

From 2014 to 2017, taxpayers loaned \$74.2 million to finance education at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy, which the school estimates costs between \$38,000 and \$48,000 a year. Virtually every student received aid during the six years it takes most of them to graduate, according to outside calculations. Graduates make \$28,000 a year on average, according to the [Education Department's](#) "[College Scorecard](#)."



Adam Andrzejewski, OpenTheBook's founder, said the federal government's expanding role has become counterproductive, creating incentives for schools to raise their costs, knowing taxpayers are helping pick up the tab.

"Scaling back the amount of public funding flowing to cosmetology colleges should be a nonpartisan reform," Mr. Andrzejewski said. "Public funding in the form of student loans and grants is so lucrative it has pushed up the cost of student tuition to above-market rates. Many of these beauty schools now charge student tuitions that exceeds Big 10 universities, and students graduate after one year with a license to cut hair, manicure nails, and do massage therapy and they have tens of thousands of dollars in student loans."

In addition, a [spreadsheet](#) from the Office of Management and Budget shows the [Education Department](#) pegging the level of improper spending on Pell Grants, the biggest share of college loans, at \$12.2 billion between 2004 and 2017, with the figure soaring from less than \$1 billion in 2015 to more than \$2 billion in 2016..

The department did not respond to inquiries from The Washington Times about improper Pell Grants and other parts of the report, after officials asked for questions in writing and wanted clarification on some questions.

Schools aggressively encourage students to take advantage of federal money. For example, the Crescent City School of Gaming and Bartending, which received \$9.5 million in federal funding between fiscal 2014 and 2017, cites federal loans as the most common way to pay.

The school provides a helpful list of taxpayer programs — Pell Grants, Stafford Loans and Workforce Investment Act/Network Funding — that students might access.

“Many Crescent students end up paying for their whole Crescent program from these sources and have living expenses left over,” the school told students.

The Washington Times reached out to the Crescent school, as well as several others that have taken in millions in taxpayer money, such as the Refrigeration School in Phoenix and the Sonoran Desert Institute, a firearms specialist institution, but did not receive any response.

The [Education Department](#)’s budget stands at about \$115 billion a year, a gargantuan expansion from its early years after it was established by President Jimmy Carter in 1979.

Of that, about half goes to higher education, or \$120 billion in 2017 and 2018 combined. OpenTheBooks said student loans accounted for 79 percent and direct payments were 19 percent. The remaining money was for grants and contracts, including billions spent on companies to monitor and collect student loans.

Most of the money the [Education Department](#) spends is in the form of loans, of which the Obama administration made taxpayers the sole source. Students at what OpenTheBooks classifies as traditional schools took in the most, borrowing \$66.1 billion, while those at community and junior colleges, for-profit schools, and the aforementioned beauty institutions borrowed another \$10.4 billion, the study found.

The loans were soaked up by schools, the 25 largest of which have endowments that, combined, top \$250 billion. Mr. Andrzejewski said colleges must open the spigot from their bulging endowment accounts and put their own skin in the lending game.

“They have got to lighten the load on the American taxpayer,” he said.

The regulation of the schools and the outlay of so many billions isn’t cheap, as records show taxpayers provide handsome compensation to [Education Department](#) employees.

“The average wage at [the department] in FY2017 was \$109,918,” the report said. “The average employee cost taxpayers \$143,992, including benefits. In May 2018, [the department] disclosed 3,818 employees — a large decrease from 4,642 employees in 2012.”

The department’s payroll swelled for most of the Obama administration, before dipping in 2016 and falling sharply thereafter, federal records show.

Although the study acknowledges partisan differences between how the [Department of Education](#)’s mission is envisioned, steps to reduce its spending are available with a minimum of political wrangling, Mr. Andrzejewski argued.

“Big savings start with small, sensible cuts,” Mr. Andrzejewski said. “With education we often see that the best way to make something expensive is for government to make it ‘affordable.’ That’s true of traditional higher education and other forms of education that are alternatives to four-year colleges.”

Sign up for Daily Newsletters

[Manage Newsletters](#)

Copyright © 2020 The Washington Times, LLC. [Click here for reprint permission.](#)

Please read our [comment policy](#) before commenting.

↑ Click to Hide ↑

SPONSORED STORIES



[Pics] Missing Child Finally Found 2 Years Later In A Hole In Neighbor's Wall -- Alive

Maternity Week



[Gallery] The One And Only WD40 Trick Everyone Should Know

Ocean Draw



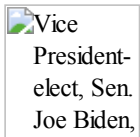
About Plaque Psoriasis: Learn About Symptoms & Causes

Lifelessons.club

Recommended by



Top Stories



Hunter Biden's business partner played key role in meeting between Chinese businessmen, Obama staff



Dianne Feinstein's embrace of Lindsey Graham angers liberals



Quiz: US Citizenship Test - Could You Pass?



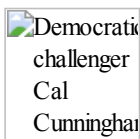
Look for any high school yearbook, it's free

Sponsored Content | Classmates

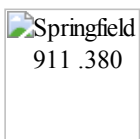
Recommended by



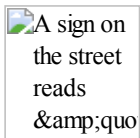
Trump hopes to translate massive enthusiasm edge into election victory



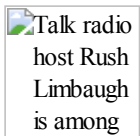
Cal Cunningham campaign for Senate in North Carolina not harmed by scandal



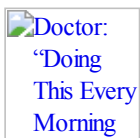
Pocket rockets: reliable .380 pistols for concealed carry



Federal judge upholds lawsuit against Seattle over CHOP



New York Times cites 'the power of conservative talk radio'



Doctor: "Doing This Every Morning Can Snap Back Sagging Skin (No Creams Needed)"
Sponsored Content



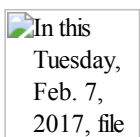
Dissident group presents evidence of possible new Iran nuclear site



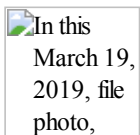
AG Barr says 'deceitful' media portrays police as 'bastards'



Quiz: Do you remember the 1970s?



ICE sweeps through D.C., other sanctuary cities; more than 170 arrests



John Fogerty, 'Fortunate Son' singer, tells Trump campaign to cease and desist



Busted: Hilarious celebrity mugshots



Fauci: Families 'may have to bite the bullet' and skip Thanksgiving gatherings



Rapper who sang about bilking unemployment is arrested for bilking unemployment



Quiz: Calling all spelling experts



[Gallery] 13 Year Old Boy Built A House For Just \$1500: Look When He Opens The Door And Reveals The Inside

Sponsored Content | Ocean Draw

Recommended by



Newsletters

- Breaking News
- Jennifer Harper
- Today's Opinion

- Tammy Bruce
- Weekly
- Front Page Podcast

- Daily
- Bill Gertz
- Charles Hurt

[Terms of Use](#) / [Privacy Policy](#) / [Manage Newsletters](#)

Find us on Facebook

- [The Washington Times](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Local](#)
- [Sports](#)

Find us on Twitter

- [The Washington Times](#)
- [Opinion](#)

- [Local](#)
- [Sports](#)

- [Subscribe](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [E-edition](#)
- [Customer Service](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Terms](#)
- [Privacy](#)
- [RSS](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [About](#)
- [Contact](#)

All site contents © Copyright 2020 The Washington Times, LLC | 3600 New York Avenue NE | Washington, DC 20002 | 202-636-3000