

Examining UConn Tuition Trends and How They Reveal Societal Perceptions of Higher Education

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Introduction

Public higher education institutions have provided people with the opportunity to further their education at a lower cost.

UConn, for example, had a tuition price of \$15,672 for in-state students and \$38,340 for out-of-state students in the 2023 Fiscal Year.

On the other hand, Yale charges \$64,700 (2023 Fiscal Year) for students to attend their private institution.

Although UConn has a lower cost, this number is still high for those with little to no financial aid.

The fact that public institutions charge a substantial amount of money reveals how education is viewed as a privilege and not a right.

It also displays the relationship between capitalism and education as a business because of the high pricing of higher education.

Methods

I gathered Fall student enrollment, Total Undergraduate Student Cost, and Revenues from the UConn Fact-Sheets online ranging from 1980 to 2023 Fiscal Year.

I entered cost of tuition, adjusted for inflation, for 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, and every year from 2010-present. There were no data sheets available from 2001-2009. Starting from 2010, the facts sheets' information was available and imputed every year consecutively.

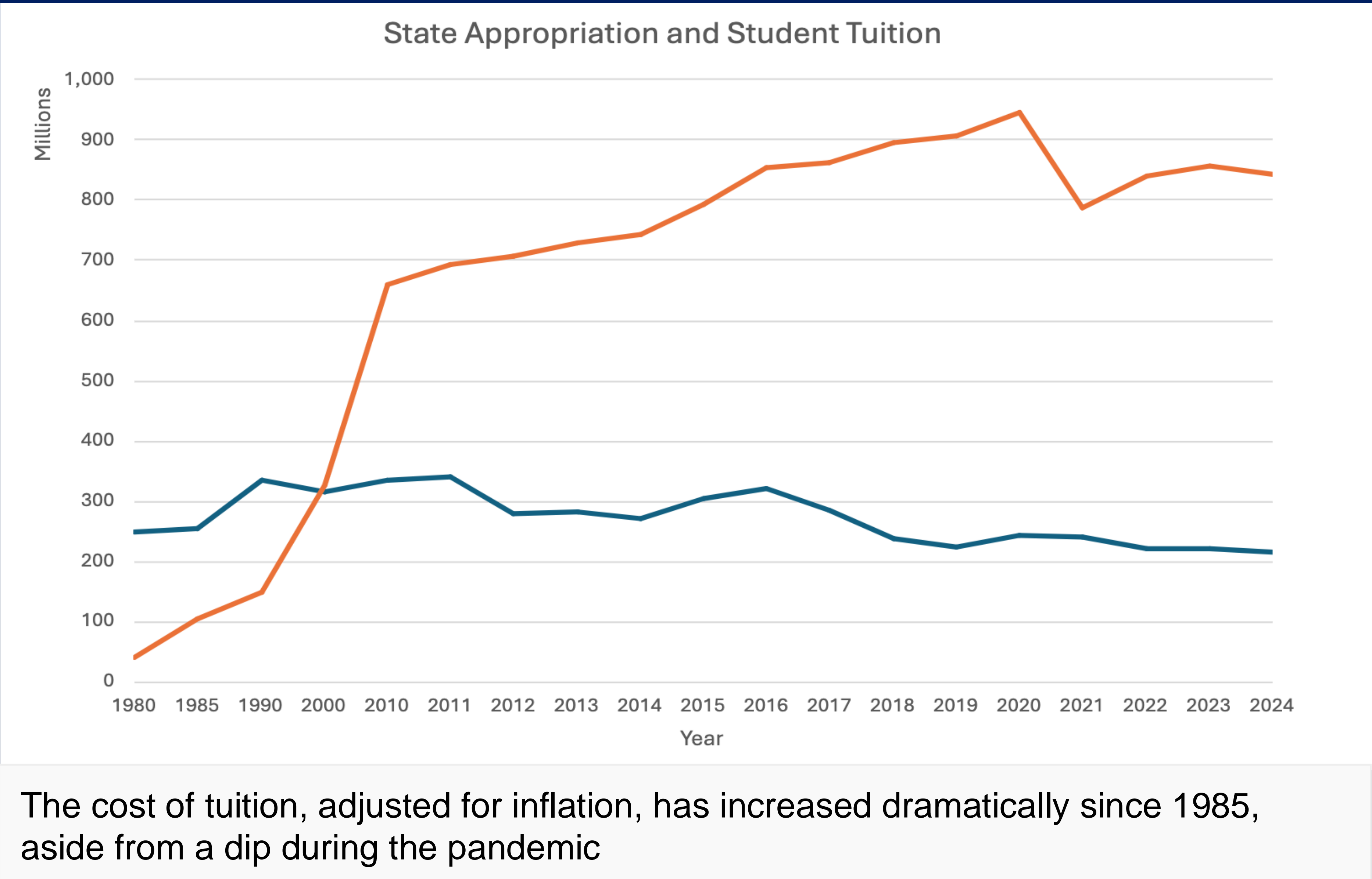
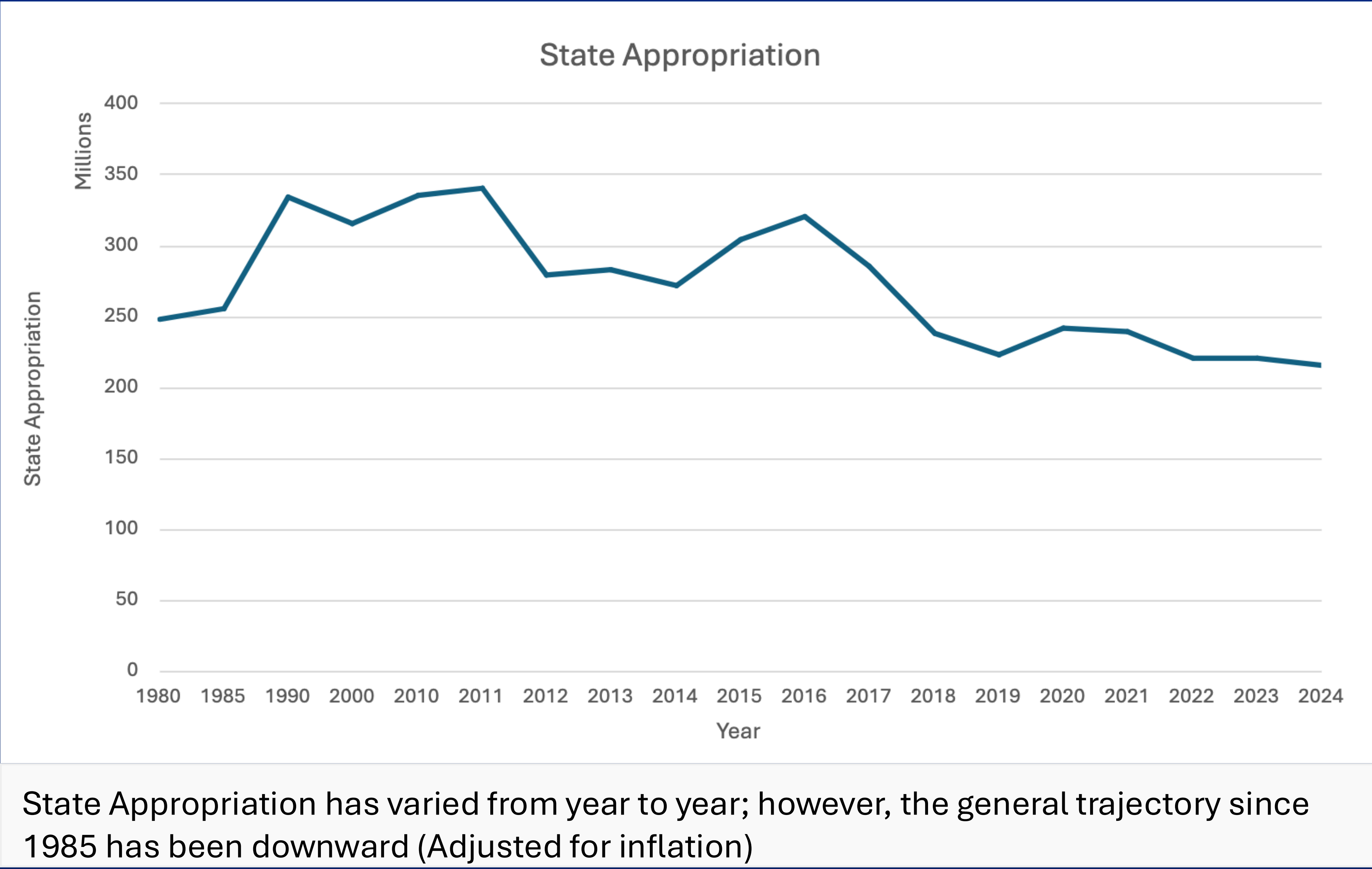
The fact sheet for 1995 did not include state appropriations, so it was omitted from the data set.

I placed the data in the Microsoft platform, Excel sheet. Following that, I imputed the numbers into an inflation calculator to adjust the tuition and appropriation dollars to 2024 dollars.

I entered the data in Microsoft Excel and used MiniTab software to create a graph to display the data

Research Question

Has there been an increase in UConn Tuition and does state appropriation change along with it?



Discussion

Having a higher education degree is a prerequisite to many jobs, it should concern people in the US that not everyone has access to continuing their education.

People not having access to higher education is more than just a personal problem. Studies show that everyone having access to education can improve the economy, longer life expectancy, less criminal activity, and social unity (Vila, 200)

One problem is the decrease in value that people place on higher education. About 47% of US adults say that attending college is worth it, but only without taking loans (Fry, Braga, and Parker 2024). This implies that fewer people are considering to go to a higher education institution based on financial barriers. As mentioned before, choosing to go to college can improve life conditions for everyone in society.

It is important for people to understand that the only reason that there is a shift in value on education is because people are thinking of its monetary value if higher education were viewed as a human right there would be not a price tag to compare it to in the first place. This ties into the idea that higher education institutions are viewed as businesses. Meaning the focus is gaining money rather than ensure everyone has equal access to education.

References

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