

Enrollment of Students of Color at Public AAU Institutions in Fall 2003

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This analysis examines the enrollment of undergraduate students at public AAU institutions as a percentage of high school graduates in their respective states, with detail by race/ethnicity. The analysis shows that the Twin Cities campus ranks 5th among the 34 public AAU campuses in enrolling students of color, when the percentage of high school graduates who are students of color is a controlling factor.

Data Sources and Methodology

The fall 2003 enrollment data is based on an analysis by the AAU data exchange of IPEDS fall 2003 enrollment survey data. High school graduates detail is from the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education publication "Knocking on the College Door" (December 2003), which has actual and projected high school graduation figures for all 50 states for the period 1988 – 2018, with detail by race/ethnicity.

In the analysis the fall 2003 enrollment at each public AAU campus is examined as a percentage of high school graduates with detail by race/ethnicity. The percentage of other racial/ethnic categories is then compared with the percentage for white high school graduates in the following way.

Suppose the enrollment of Asian American students on a campus is 2.4 percent of high school graduates who are Asian American while the enrollment of white, non-Hispanic students is 2.0 percent of high school graduates who are white, non-Hispanic. The ratio of these percentages provides a simple way of measuring the extent to which the campus is more or less successful in enrolling Asian American students than white students. In this example the ratio of the two is 2.4 divided by 2.0 or 1.2. If the value of this ratio is greater than 1 it indicates that the campus is more successful in recruiting Asian American students than white students, and if the value is less than 1 it indicates that the campus is less successful in recruiting Asian American students than white students.

This ratio can be used both to examine enrollment patterns on a single campus and also to compare campuses.

The analysis answers a simple question. How well does each campus do in recruiting and enrolling high school graduates from the different racial/ethnic cohorts?

The analysis provides a fair comparison, even though it is imperfect for four reasons.

1. First, race/ethnicity detail for high school graduates is available only for students who graduated from public high schools.
2. Second, all public AAU institutions enroll non-resident students.
3. Third, the analysis assumes that all high school graduates would be admissible to the AAU public institution(s) in their states and this is obviously not the case.
4. Fourth, the undergraduate enrollment numbers include non-degree seeking students.

There is no way to make adjustments for these four factors, but I do not believe they skew the results of how the campuses compare with one another in any significant way. In other words I believe that the analysis does provide a fair comparison.

Analysis

The analysis is summarized in five figures at the end.

Figure 1. Enrollment of Students of Color

Figure 2: Enrollment of Black, non-Hispanic Students

Figure 3: Enrollment of American Indian Students

Figure 4: Enrollment of Asian American Students

Figure 5: Enrollment of Hispanic Students

The values shown in each figure are the ratios for the racial/ethnic groups on each campus as explained above.

As shown in Figure 1, the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus ranks 5th among the 34 public AAU campuses in enrolling students of color, as measured by the number of students of color it enrolls in comparison to white, non-Hispanic students, given the racial/ethnic profile of high school graduates. The ratio for the Twin Cities campus is 1.43. SUNY-Stony Brook has the highest ratio (2.37), while Texas A&M has the lowest ratio (.18).

As shown in figures 2-5, the Twin Cities campus ranks:

- 3rd in enrolling black, non-Hispanic students (ratio = 1.08)
- 32nd in enrolling American Indian students (ratio = .57)
- 19th in enrolling Asian American students (ratio = 2.16)
- 9th in enrolling Hispanic students (ratio = 1.09)

The ratios indicate that the Twin Cities campus is very successful in enrolling Asian American students, fairly successful in enrolling black, non-Hispanic and Hispanic students, and not very successful in recruiting American Indian students.

For all 34 campuses the median value of the ratio is:

- 0.92 for students of color
- 0.52 for black, non-Hispanic students
- 0.89 for American Indian students
- 2.47 for Asian American Students
- 0.71 for Hispanic students

Conclusion

Public AAU campuses in states where the percentage of high school graduates who are students of color is high (e.g., 50 percent) should enroll a higher percentage of students of color than campuses in states where the percentage of high school graduates who are students of color is low (e.g., 10 percent). It makes no sense to compare campuses

without taking market into account, and the major market for all AAU public campuses is the pool of high school graduates in their respective states.

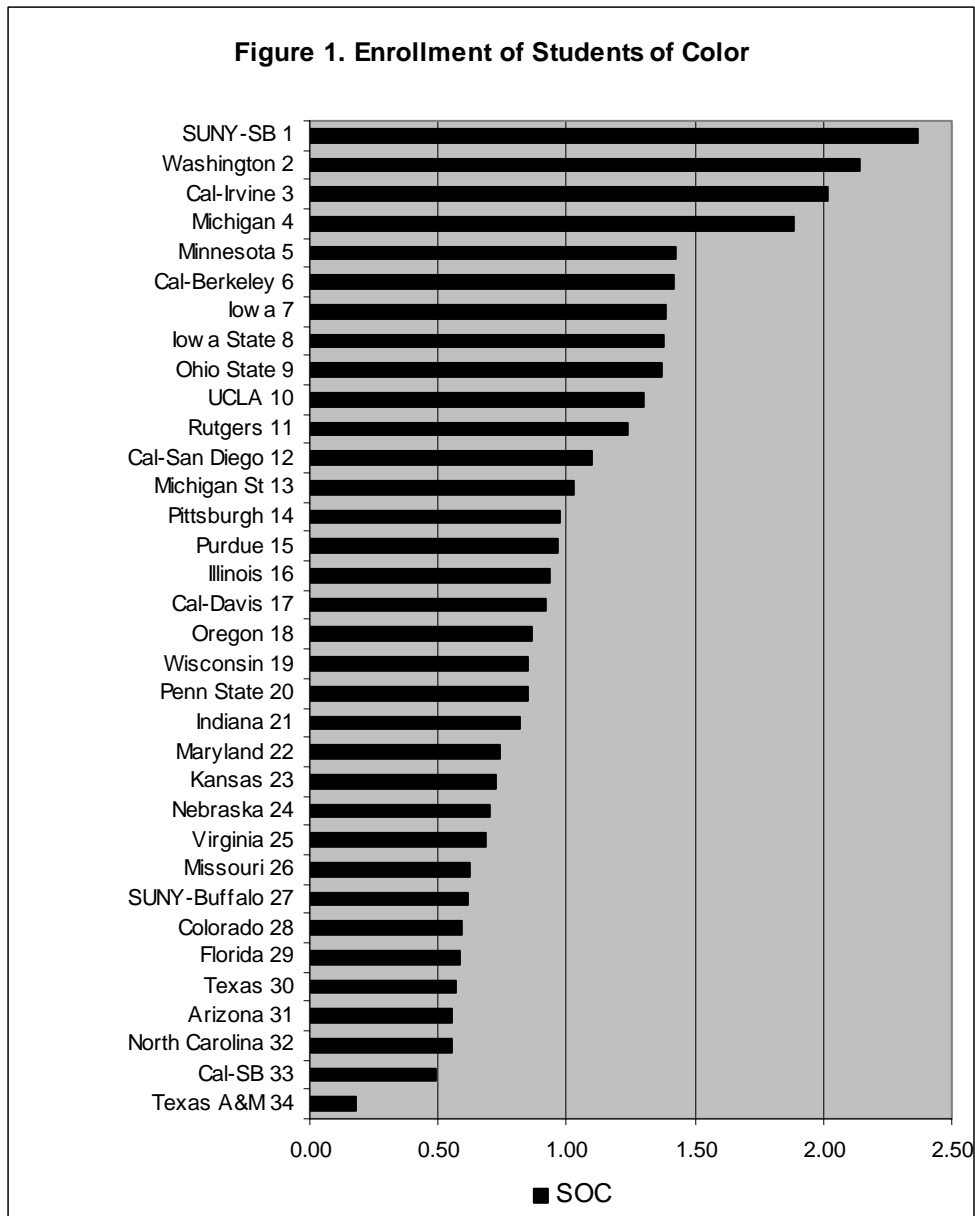


Figure 2. Enrollment of Black, non-Hispanic Students

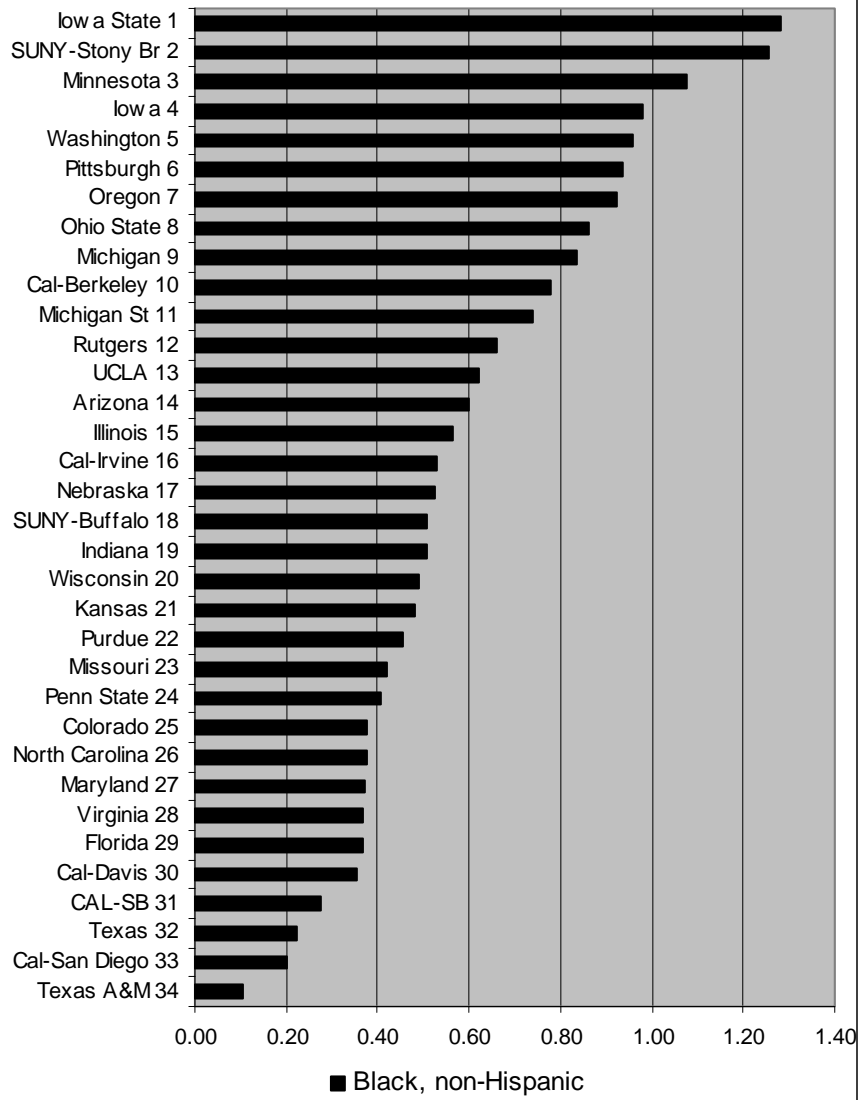


Figure 3. Enrollment of American Indian Students

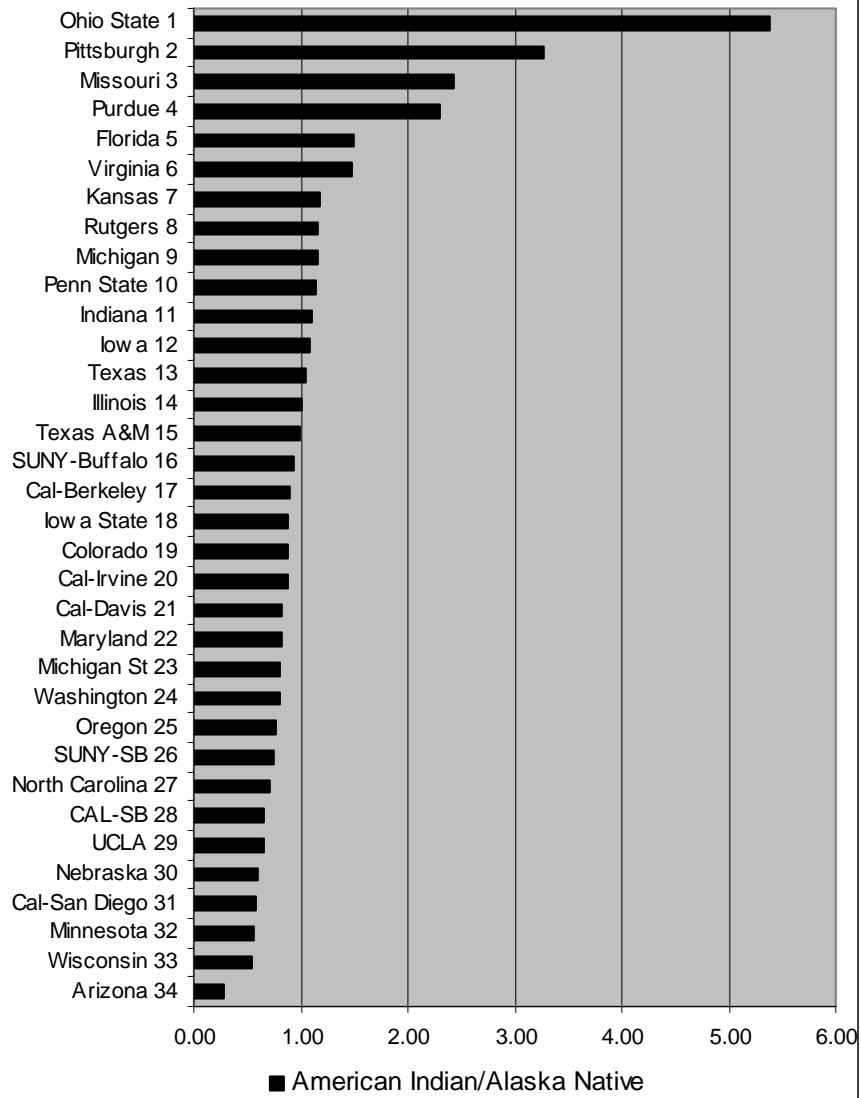


Figure 4. Enrollment of Asian American Students

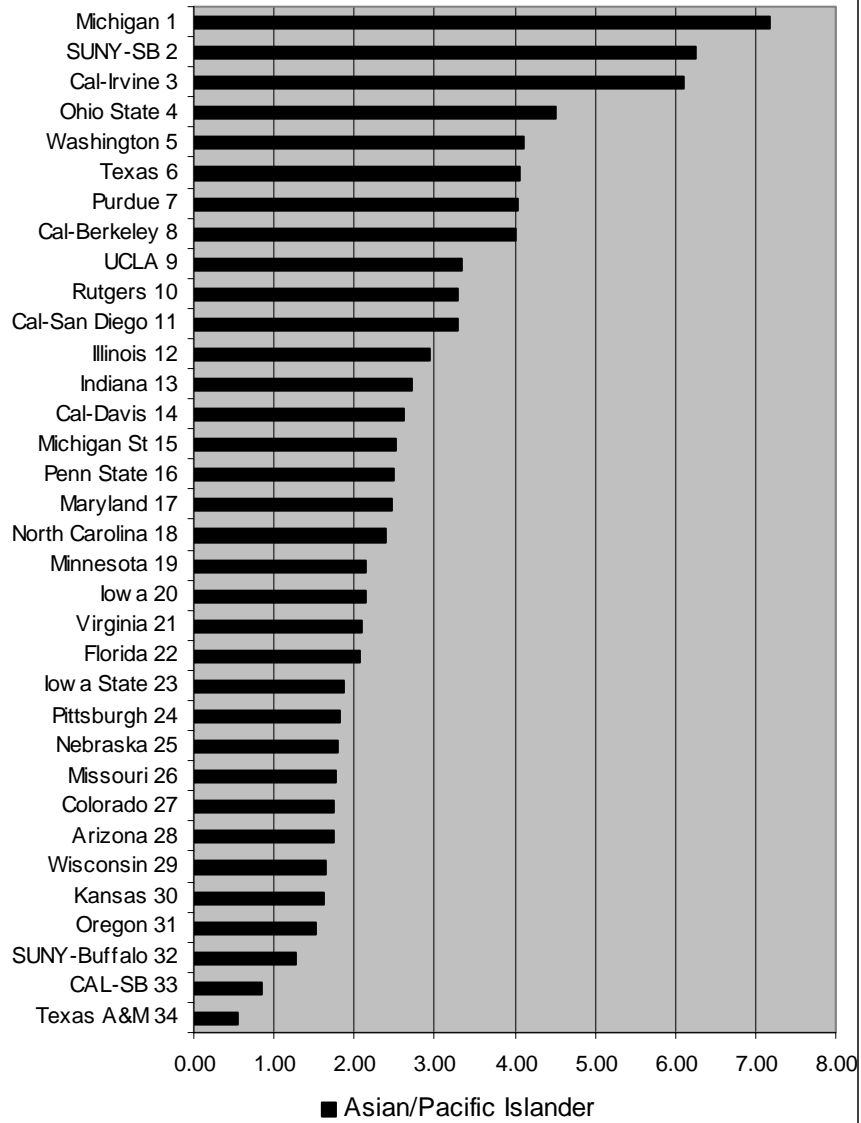


Figure 5. Enrollment of Hispanic Students

