

Theresa Utton

Subject: FW: Quit Starving Public Higher Education

From: Waara, Carol []

Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 5:27 PM

To: Theresa Utton

Subject: Quit Starving Public Higher Education

Dear Legislators,

Having grown up in the relatively "boom" times of the 1950s and 1960s, and attending a public university in the 1970s, I am acutely aware of how I gained educationally from the many benefits and blessings of that era's wealth.

I attended a small residential college named after the brilliant Vermont senator Justin Morrill (within the larger university), but only in later life did I understand how Senator Morrill authored the Land Grant College Act that funded my education through low tuition costs to me while the state shouldered the bulk of the costs.

I went on to attain my PhD from another Land Grant college, and have taught at public universities and colleges for the rest of my professional life. I love helping my students gain the knowledge and skills needed for their future success, but increasingly despair that they have the time and energy necessary to achieve what they need to.

The amount of debt and number of hours my students have to work in order to pay for their education is extremely detrimental, both to their personal progress, but also to the progress of our economy and society.

Long ago, Vermont led the way in finding and committing to public funding of higher education so that middle and lower-class Americans could become educated. Please do not allow current economic limitations stand in the way of doing the right thing again.

Sincerely,

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