

Washington, D.C. symposium marks the release of *Measuring Up 2006*

Photographs by John Troha, Black Star, for CrossTalk

THE PRESENTATION of *Measuring Up 2006*, the national report card on higher education, was followed by a symposium at the National Press Club on September 7, 2006. Participants offered wide-ranging opinions and analysis regarding the current state, and future, of higher education.



Garrey Carruthers

"I believe universities are not very well managed and are not very efficient."
—Garrey Carruthers, former governor of New Mexico, now dean of the College of Business and vice president for economic development at New Mexico State University



James B. Hunt Jr., former governor of North Carolina and chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education



David W. Breneman

"We've got a financial aid system that makes the IRS look like a dream in terms of its simplicity."
—David W. Breneman, dean of the Curry School of Education, University of Virginia



Charles E. M. Kolb

"My goal is to get this report in front of every CEO, every business leader in this country, because frankly, right now a lot of them think we're just fine."

—Charles E.M. Kolb, president, Committee for Economic Development

"In America today, it costs the average family nearly a quarter of their annual income to pay total education costs, after financial aid, for a year of community college."

—Joni Finney, vice president, The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education



Joni Finney



Arturo Madrid

"We continue to do very well by the best. We continue to privilege the privileged in this society, and specifically in higher education. The true test is how we do by everybody else. The true test of a fair and just society, of a healthy society, is how we do by the least."

—Arturo Madrid, Distinguished Professor of Humanities at Trinity University, Texas



William Pound, National Conference of State Legislatures



Margaret Spellings

"Higher education has gone from being a 'nice to have' to a 'must have.'"

—U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings

"Now about two-thirds (of students) graduate with debt, and the amount of that debt has increased dramatically; over the past decade it has increased by 50 percent after taking account of inflation."

—Robert Shireman, executive director, The Institute for College Access and Success



Robert Shireman

"Policymakers, practitioners and the public are hungry for benchmarks and assessments of how well their education investments and efforts are paying off."

—Virginia B. Edwards, editor, Education Week



Virginia B. Edwards

"In reforming what we're doing in higher education, while I agree with raising standards, I would like to convert that to raising expectations, and then having our principal goal be to get more people through the system."

—Robert H. McCabe, senior fellow, League for Innovation in the Community College



Robert H. McCabe

"We've got to improve performance with the commitment of money and people we have now in higher education, and then I think the public will respond with what is required to get to the next level."

—Paul E. Lingenfelter, president, State Higher Education Executive Officers



Paul E. Lingenfelter

"What is going to happen in higher education is international economies, other educational systems, are going to kick our butts."

—Thomas J. Tierney, chairman and co-founder, Bridgespan Group



Alan Wagner



Margaret Miller, Director, Center for the Study of Higher Education, University of Virginia

"U.S. performance of eighth-graders on recent international assessments does indicate some improvement, but the U.S. performance still stands somewhere in the middle of a large group of countries, including that group of countries that are advanced market economies to which we are most similar."

—Alan Wagner, State University of New York at Albany



Thomas J. Tierney