

Excellence for fewer

The Economist

2011.9.10

California's public universities

- California, long a leader in public higher education, is now privatizing it

A “master plan”

- A “master plan” in 1960s by Pat Brown (governor of the state) and Clark Kerr (president of the UC Berkeley)
- The aim: to have excellent public universities, and nearly universal and free access to them
- System: community college + CSU + UC
- Premise: higher education was a **public good** for the state

Now and then

- In 1990: the state paid 78% of the cost of education each student
- In 2010: 47%
- This year (2011) students will pay more for tuition than the state gives in funding
- In a UC campus, the cost can be \$13,000, or \$31,000 including housing

To raise revenues

- Admit ever more out-of-state students (who pay three times more)
- More donations
- UC behave increasingly like private universities