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## 19 Colleges Probed on Gender Bias in Admissions

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has selected 19 colleges and universities for [its controversial probe](#) of whether colleges are favoring male applicants in admissions decisions, and whether any such preference is appropriate. The commission, seeking to minimize costs, selected colleges close to Washington, but included a range of four-year institutions, including public and private, historically black and predominantly white, religious and secular, and institutions of varying degrees of admissions competitiveness. While commission members say that they are just investigating a relevant issue, some advocates for female athletes view the effort as [a way to raise questions about Title IX](#) of the Education Amendments of 1972.

The colleges and the characteristics cited by the commission in selecting them are as follows:

- Historically black colleges: Howard University, Lincoln University of Pennsylvania, University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Virginia Union University.
- Religious colleges: Catholic University of America, Loyola College in Maryland and Messiah College.
- Highly selective private institutions: Georgetown University, Johns Hopkins University and Gettysburg College.
- Very selective private institution: University of Richmond.
- Moderately selective private institutions: Goucher College, Goldey-Beacom College, Washington College and York College of Pennsylvania.
- Moderately selective public institutions: Shepherd University, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, University of Delaware and University of Maryland-Baltimore County.

## 'Progress' Delays Pittsburgh Vote on Tuition Tax

[Pittsburgh's city council was set to vote Wednesday](#) on Mayor Luke Ravenstahl's proposal to levy a 1 percent tuition tax. But, at Ravenstahl's request, the vote was put on hold, the mayor proclaiming that discussions with nonprofit leaders had ["made progress"](#) and would probably lead to a resolution other than the tuition tax. Mary Hines, president of Carlow University and the Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education, acknowledged that the city's 10 colleges and universities were engaged in "dialogue, not negotiations" with the mayor and council and that a resolution could come in the week ahead. "We continue to believe the total contribution we make would have to be voluntary and not formula-based," she said. "We're looking for an appropriate solution for the long-term sustainability of Pittsburgh." The city council, meanwhile, could still vote on the tax next week.

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## The Status of Latinos in Higher Ed

A new report, ["Taking Stock: Higher Education and Latinos,"](#) summarizes research about the progress of Latino students in higher education and the views of political leaders and students themselves on that progress -- and areas where not enough progress has been made. The report urges a renewed national focus on increasing educational attainment by Latinos. Such a focus might include a media campaign, goals for enrollments and graduation rates, and increased support (along with accountability measures) for institutions that educate large numbers of Latino students. The report was prepared by [Excelencia in Education](#).

## Study Faults Lack of Diversity in Stem Cell Lines

The stem cell lines most commonly used by researchers are lacking in diversity, according to [a study](#) by University of Michigan professors that is being published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. The Michigan team analyzed 47 embryonic stem cell lines and found that most were derived from donors of northern and western European ancestry. None of the lines were from people of recent African ancestry, from Pacific Islanders, or from populations indigenous to the Americas, the researchers said.

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## Georgetown Humor Magazine Accused of Racism

Black students at Georgetown University are protesting the campus humor magazine's attempt to satirize a controversy over race related to the April Fool's edition of *The Georgetown Hoya*, the main student newspaper, the [Associated Press](#) reported. The *Hoya's* joke issue featured an article -- denounced as offensive by many students -- calling for more sex between black and white students on campus. Editors of *The Georgetown Hecker*, the humor magazine, say they were trying to poke fun at that controversy with [an article](#) that described *Hoya* staffers celebrating the holiday season with a "cross lighting." The article is illustrated with a photograph of hooded Ku Klux Klan members lighting a cross, with the caption "Jubilant Hoya staffers taking part in the annual tradition."

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## Alec Baldwin's Scholarship Criteria

New York University on Tuesday announced [a \\$1 million gift](#) from Alec Baldwin ('94) to create a scholarship fund for students at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. To be eligible, students must not only be in good academic