

# Meeting the Moment

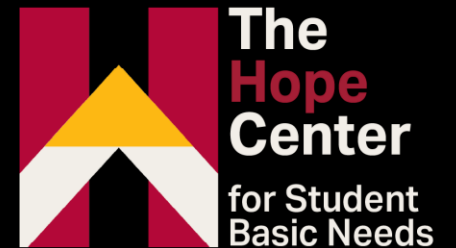
## State Leadership in a Shifting Federal Landscape

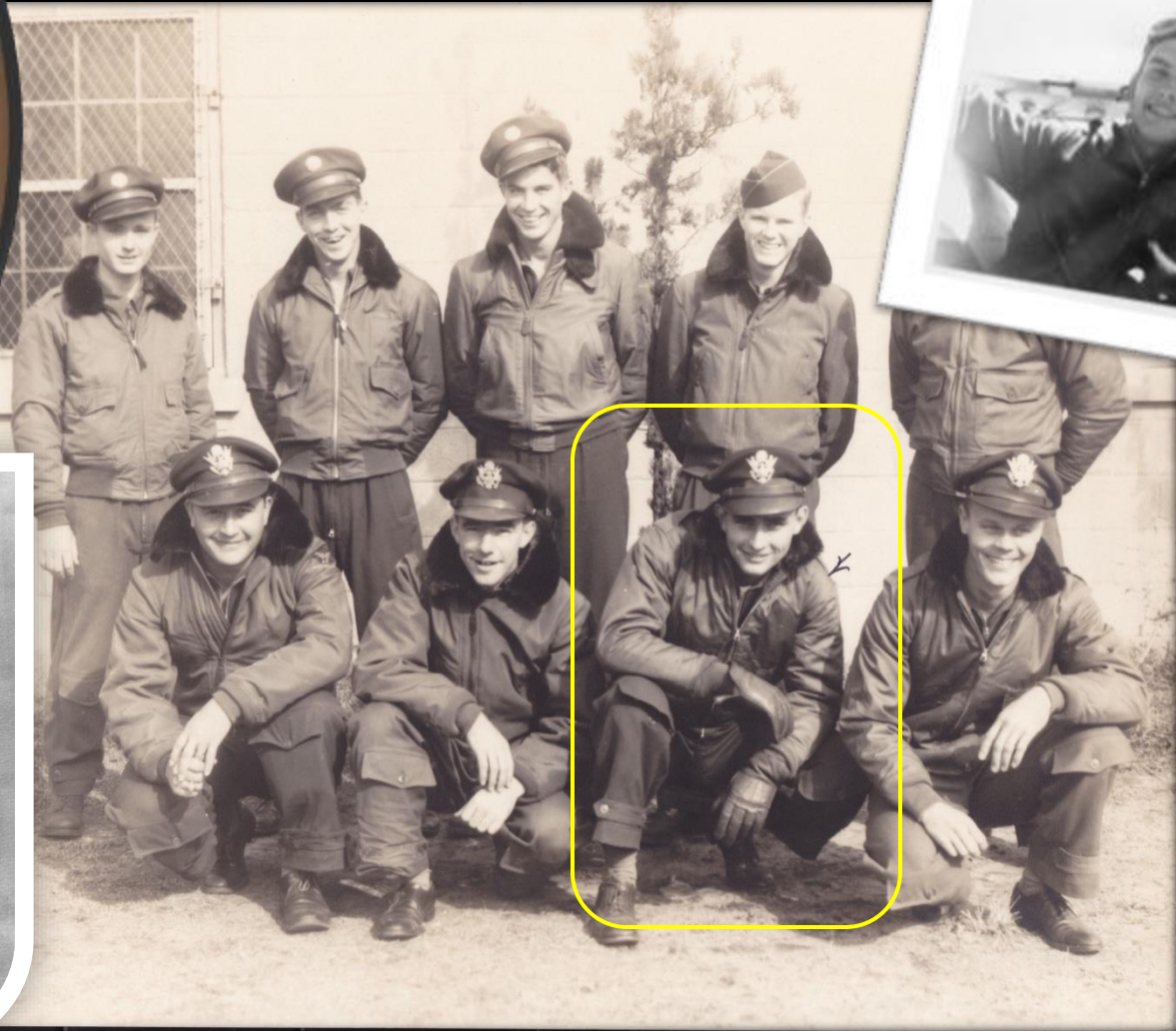
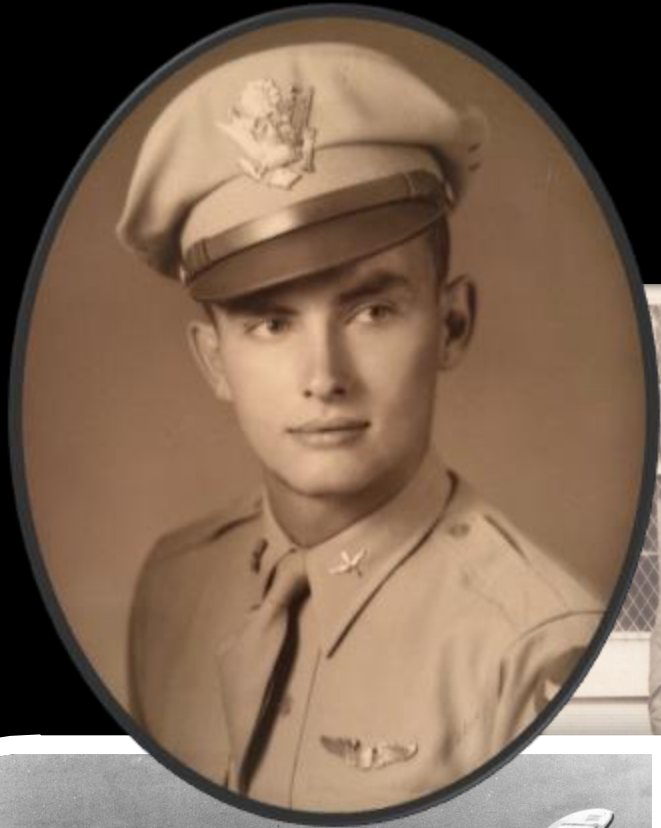
Bryce McKibben

The Hope Center for Student Basic Needs

Temple University

August 2025









*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”*

*James Baldwin*





MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2025

# The Seattle Times

WINNER OF 11 PULITZER PRIZES

INDEPENDENT AND LOCALLY OWNED FOR MORE THAN 128 YEARS

## UW, other Washington colleges face big financial challenges

### EDUCATION LAB

By KATHERINE LONG  
*Special to The Seattle Times*

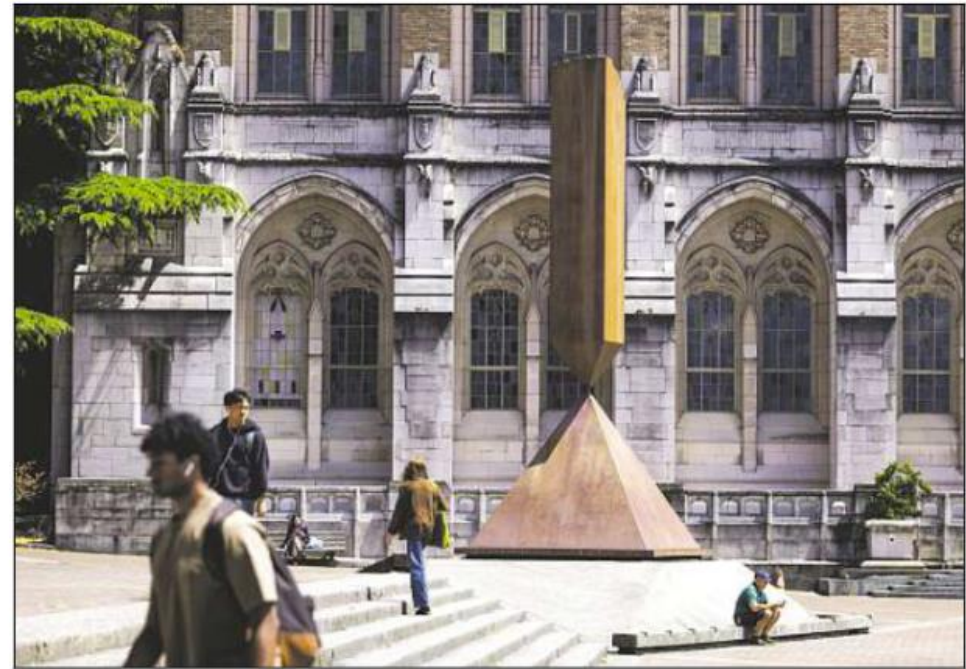
Across the state, Washington's struggling public colleges and universities are laying off staff, raising tuition, cutting administrators and trimming programs.

State budget cuts have landed at a time when severe cutbacks by President Donald Trump's administration, on top of inflation, are exerting financial stress on the schools. The administration's decision to broadly cut billions in feder-

al research dollars will be a major revenue hit to the University of Washington. The cost of providing health care and other benefits to staff is rising. And international students — who help subsidize in-state students by paying higher tuition — are turning to Europe, Canada and other countries, although a full tally of international enrollment won't be available until the fall.

With all of those challenges, "it would have been opportune to ask the state to step in" with extra money, said Ruben Flores, executive

See > **COLLEGES, A11**



KEN LAMBERT / THE SEATTLE TIMES

*The Trump administration's broad cuts in billions of federal research dollars will be a major revenue hit to the University of Washington.*





PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

# Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing

The White House | January 20, 2025







PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

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July 30, 2025

## Justice Department Declares DEI Unlawful

The nine-page memo builds on the Trump administration's efforts to dismantle diversity, equity and inclusion programs.

By [Johanna Alonso](#)



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July 30, 2025 White House January 30, 2025

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EDUCATION

**More than 50 universities face federal investigations as part of Trump's anti-DEI campaign**



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Jul 11, 2025 - Politics & Policy

## Trump targets university accreditation — a non-governmental designation



April Rubin

EDUCATION

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## More than 50 universities face federal investigations as part of Trump's anti-DEI campaign

### *Trump Wants Admissions Data on Grades and Race, but Who Will Collect It?*

The Trump administration has fired nearly everyone who worked at the federal statistics agency that would collect the data the government is seeking.



## Ending Radical A DEI Program

July 30, 2025

### Justice

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By Johanna Alonso

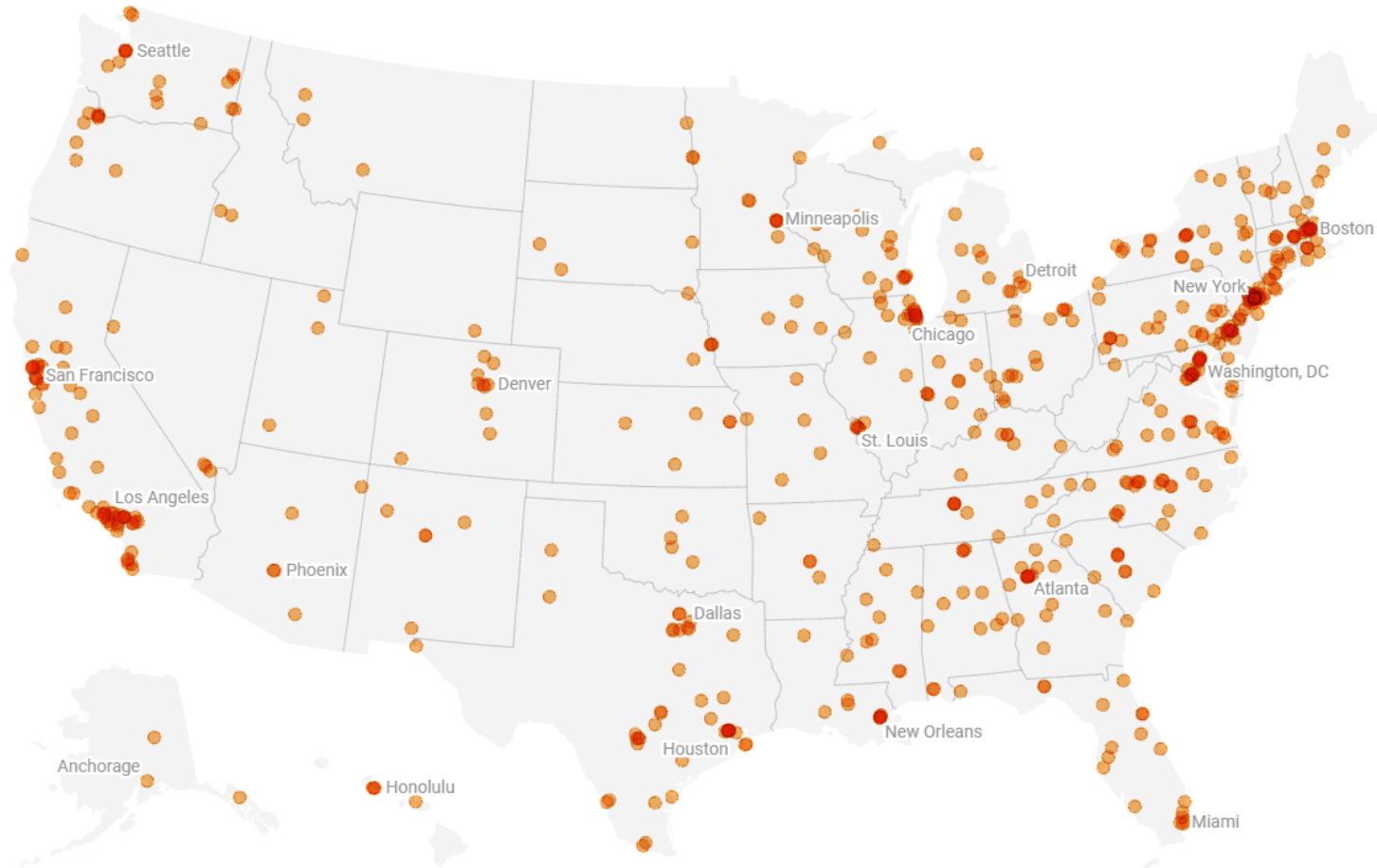
EDUCATION

## More than 50 investigation campaign

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### Federal grant funding to universities and colleges that the Trump administration has targeted for termination



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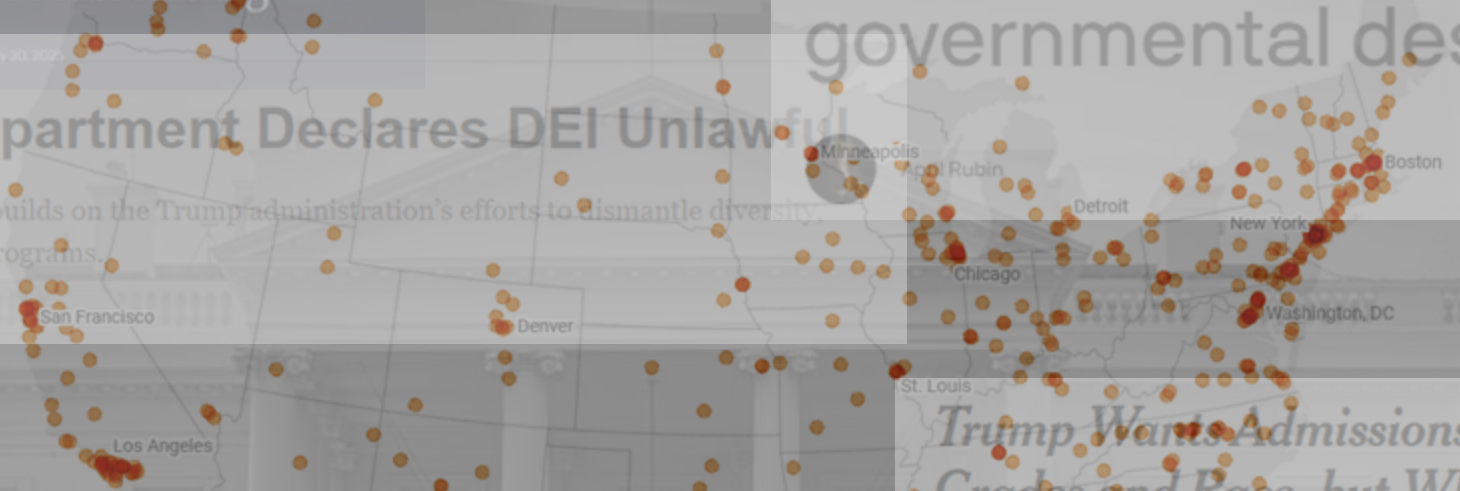
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## Trump Wants Admissions Data on

SCIENCEINSIDER | FUNDING

## Trump's proposed budget would mean 'disastrous' cuts to science

Key research budgets would shrink by one-third to one-half in 2026 spending plan

2 MAY 2025 • 5:40 PM ET • BY [SCIENCE NEWS STAFF](#)

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## More than 50 universities face investigations as part of Trump campaign





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Steel plant explosion **LIVE:** Trump administration **LIVE:** AP Top 25 poll Tropical Storm Erin Al Jazeera journalist killed

EDUCATION

# College endowment tax is leading to hiring freezes and could mean cuts in financial aid

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More than 50 universities face investigations as part of Trump's anti-DEI campaign

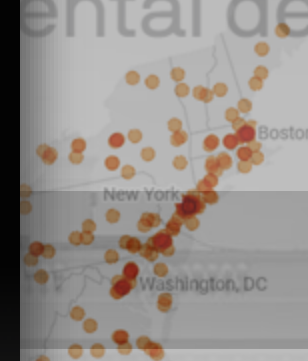
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CULTURE TRENDS

# Trump visa policies force colleges to scramble as international students vanish: report

Universities extend waitlists deep into summer as State Department pause creates enrollment uncertainty



By Joshua Q. Nelson · Fox News

AP

WORLD U.S.

Steel plant explosion

DEI Program

EDUCATION

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## College enrollment freezes and could mean cuts in financial aid

By Johanna Alonso

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New York  
Washington, DC

San Francisco

Denver

Los Angeles

Anchorage

Dallas

New Orleans

Atlanta

St. Louis

Data on  
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February 05, 2025

# Campuses No Longer Off-Limits to ICE

The Trump administration cleared the way for immigration enforcement officers to take action on campuses, sowing fear among undocumented students. Higher ed leaders are struggling with how to respond.

By [Sara Weissman](#)

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By [Johanna Alonso](#)

San Francisco

## Trump administration pushes states to exclude immigrant students from in-state tuition

The Justice Department argues these tuition laws unfairly offer a benefit to foreigners that is unavailable to U.S. citizens and legal residents.

EDUCATION

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Anchorage

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# Campuses No Longer Off-Limits to ICE

## ‘One big mistake’: Higher ed sounds warning over GOP budget law

From higher endowment taxes to student loan limits, colleges and students will face a dramatically new landscape with the passage of a new spending law.

Published July 7, 2025



[Ben Unglesbee](#)  
Senior Reporter



### students from in-state tuition

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From higher education struggling

College

By Sara We

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## Trump administration seeks \$1B settlement from UCLA, White House official says

[Politics](#) Aug 8, 2025 6:52 PM EDT

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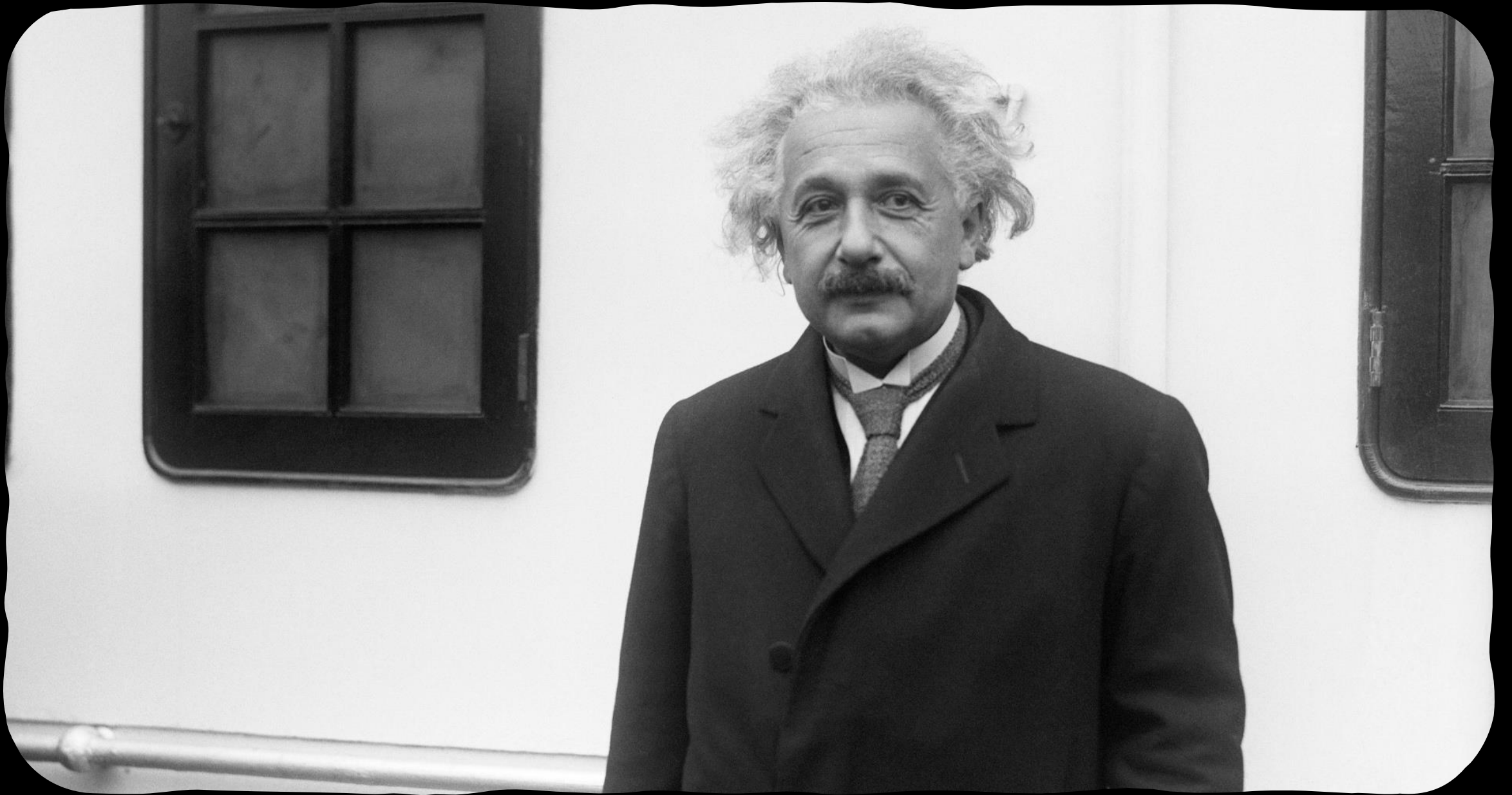
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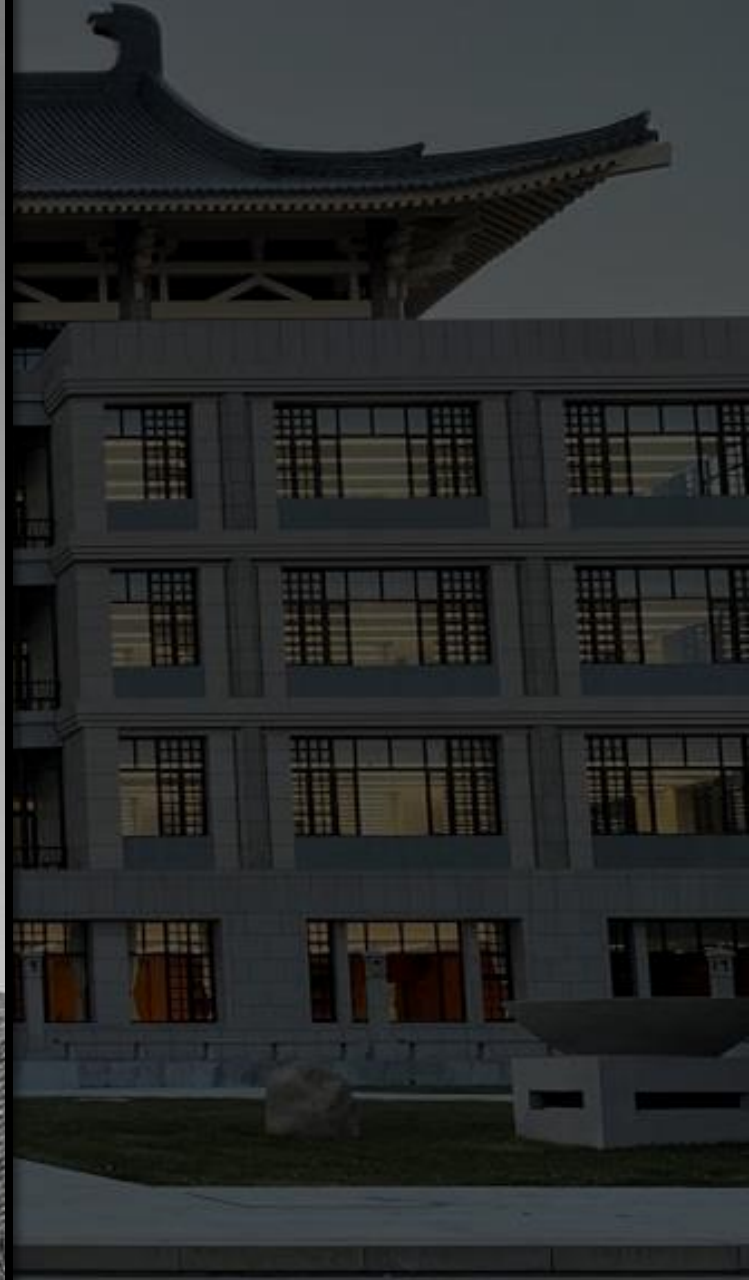
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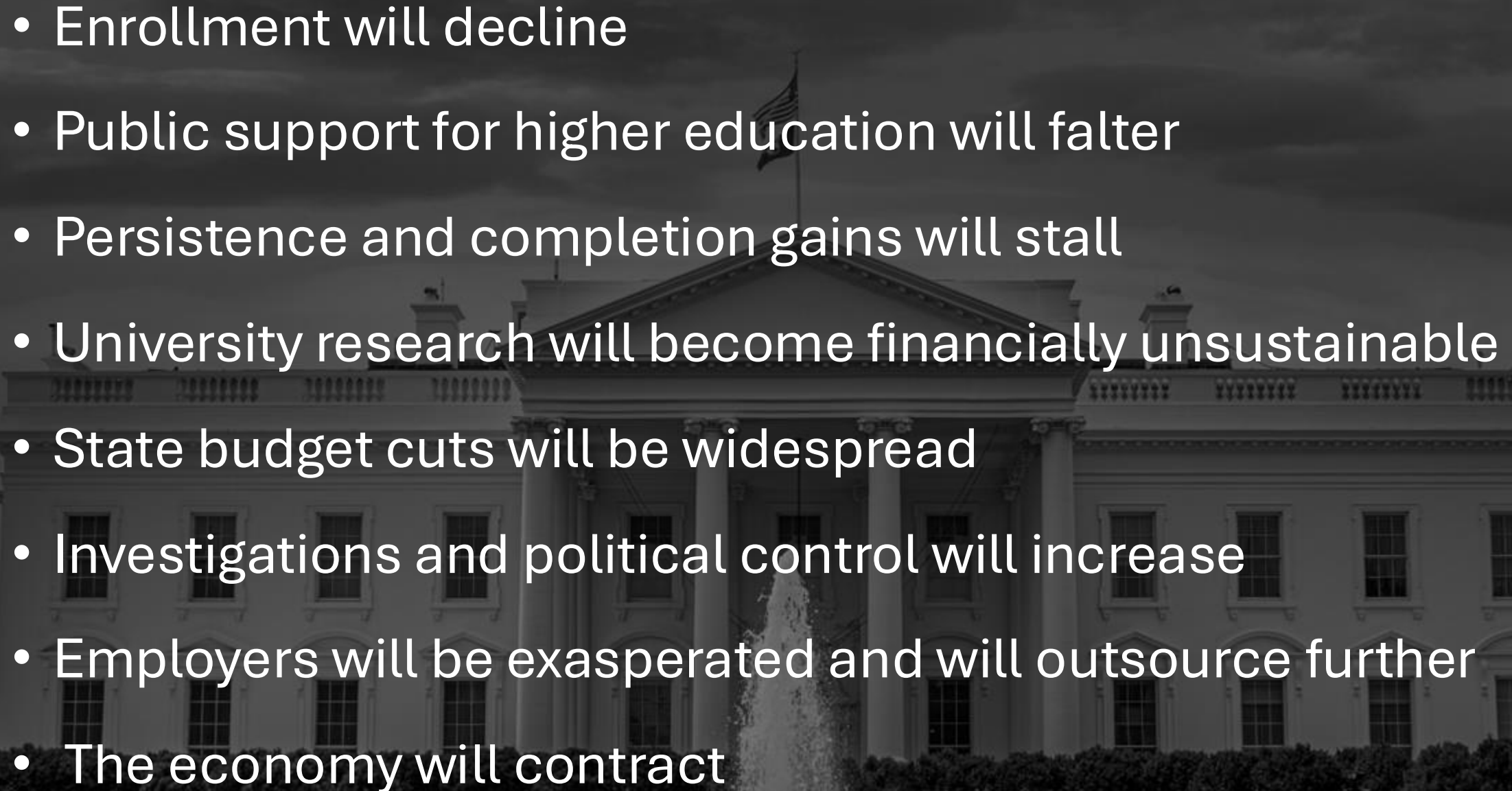
“The closest that conservatives have ever gotten to successfully dealing with left-wing domination of universities is **Viktor Orbán’s approach in Hungary.**”

“I think his way has to be the model for us: not to eliminate universities, but to give them a choice between survival or taking a much less biased approach to teaching.”







- 
- Enrollment will decline
  - Public support for higher education will falter
  - Persistence and completion gains will stall
  - University research will become financially unsustainable
  - State budget cuts will be widespread
  - Investigations and political control will increase
  - Employers will be exasperated and will outsource further
  - The economy will contract

# The Path Forward – **State** Roles

- Don't wait: describe where new funding is needed
- Detailed economic modeling
- Utilize data systems to describe student populations
- Attract new people to higher ed with simple financial aid programs
- Meet students' basic needs
- Remove eligibility barriers that reduce confidence in government



# The Path Forward – **Institution** Roles

- Lean into real advocacy nationally and in states
- Oppose legal attacks with everything we have
- Resist short-term budget decisions that subvert public mission
- Be the legal defenders of our students
- Open new doors by expanding slots
- Help students access education even if they have basic needs barriers
- Encourage more civic engagement and voting











*"Education is the point at which we decide whether we love the world enough to assume responsibility for it."*

*Hannah Arendt*