

Facing Change: How Can Higher Education Adapt and Move Forward in our Midwest Region

Nathan D. Grawe | *Carleton College*

Challenges We Face



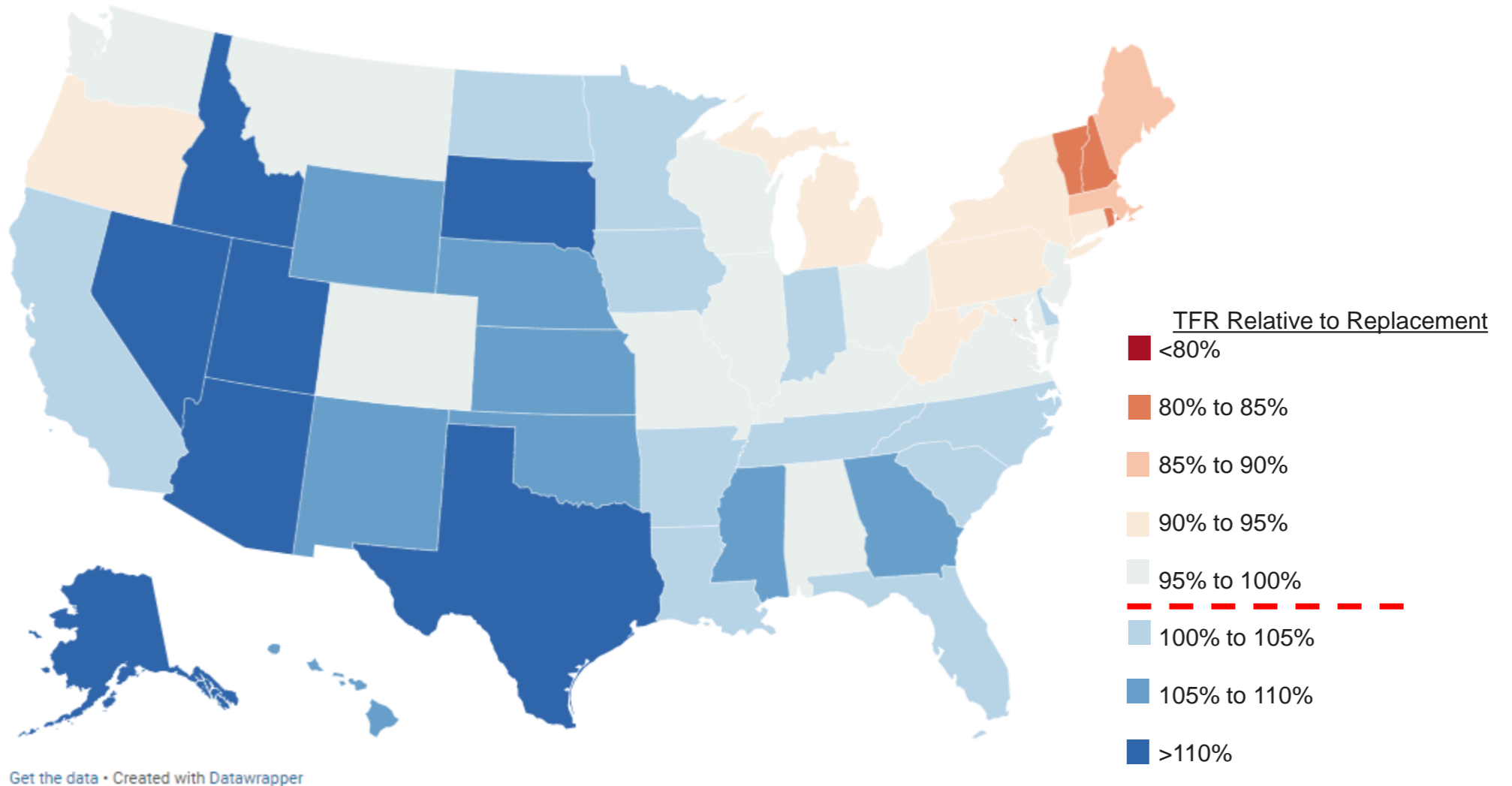
Source: William H Frey analysis of U.S. Census population projections released March 13, 2018 and revised September 6, 2018

B Metropolitan Policy Program
at BROOKINGS

Year When Non-Hispanic Whites Become Minority

- Tipping-point year around mid-century
- Younger generations are more diverse
- Those under 18 have already passed tipping-point year
- Those of traditional college-going age reach tipping point in next decade.

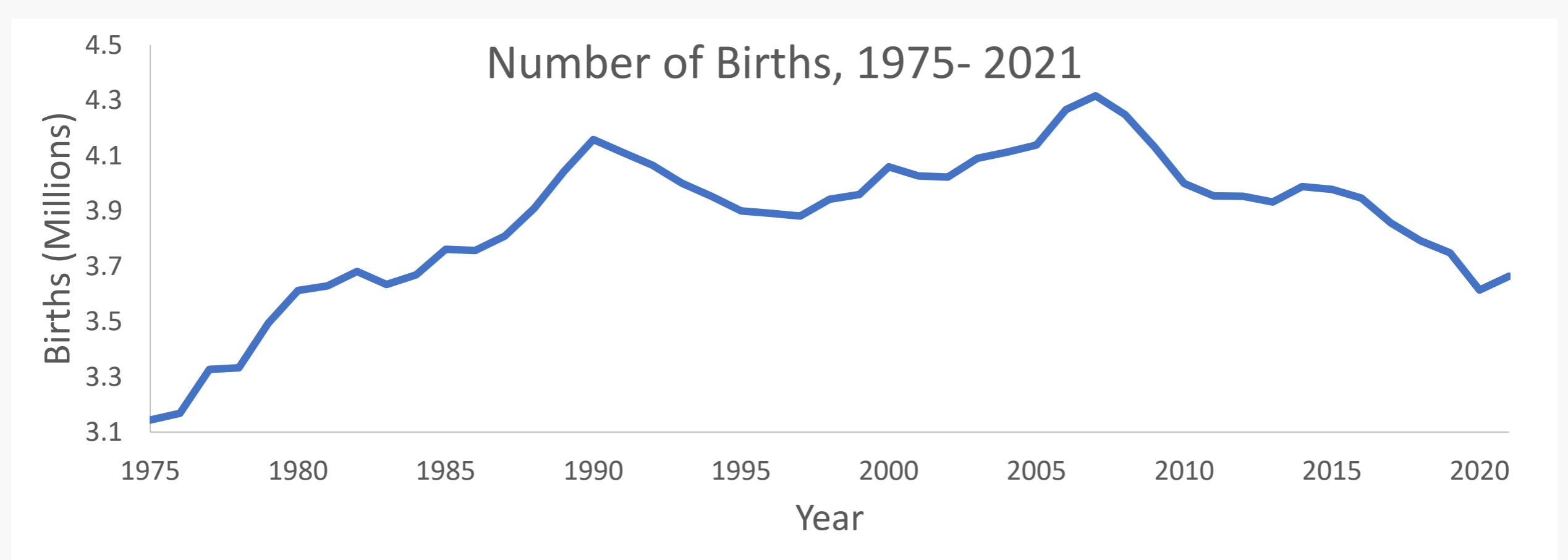
Total Fertility Rate per 1000 Women, 2007



Source: National Vital Statistics Reports Vol. 58, no. 24

A History of US Births

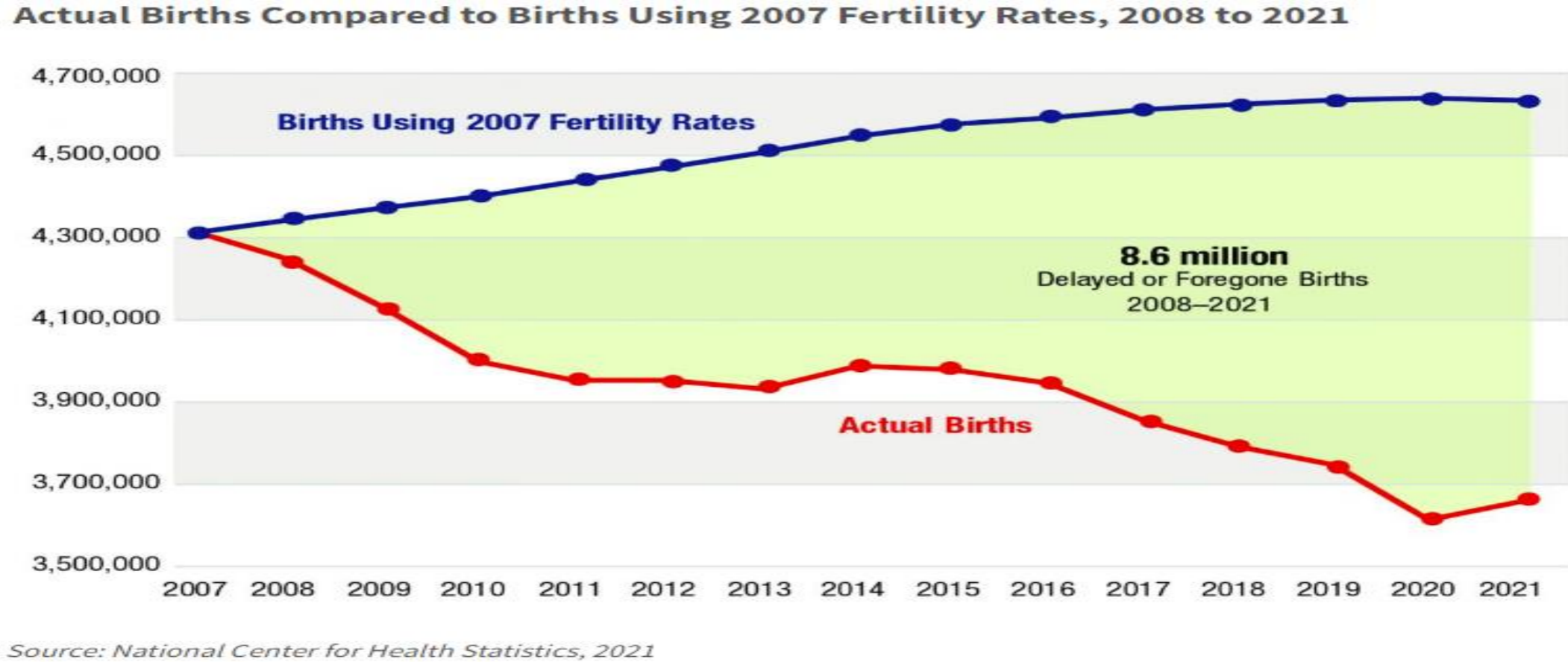
In 2020, births reached a 40-year low.



Source: National Vital Statistics Reports, various years

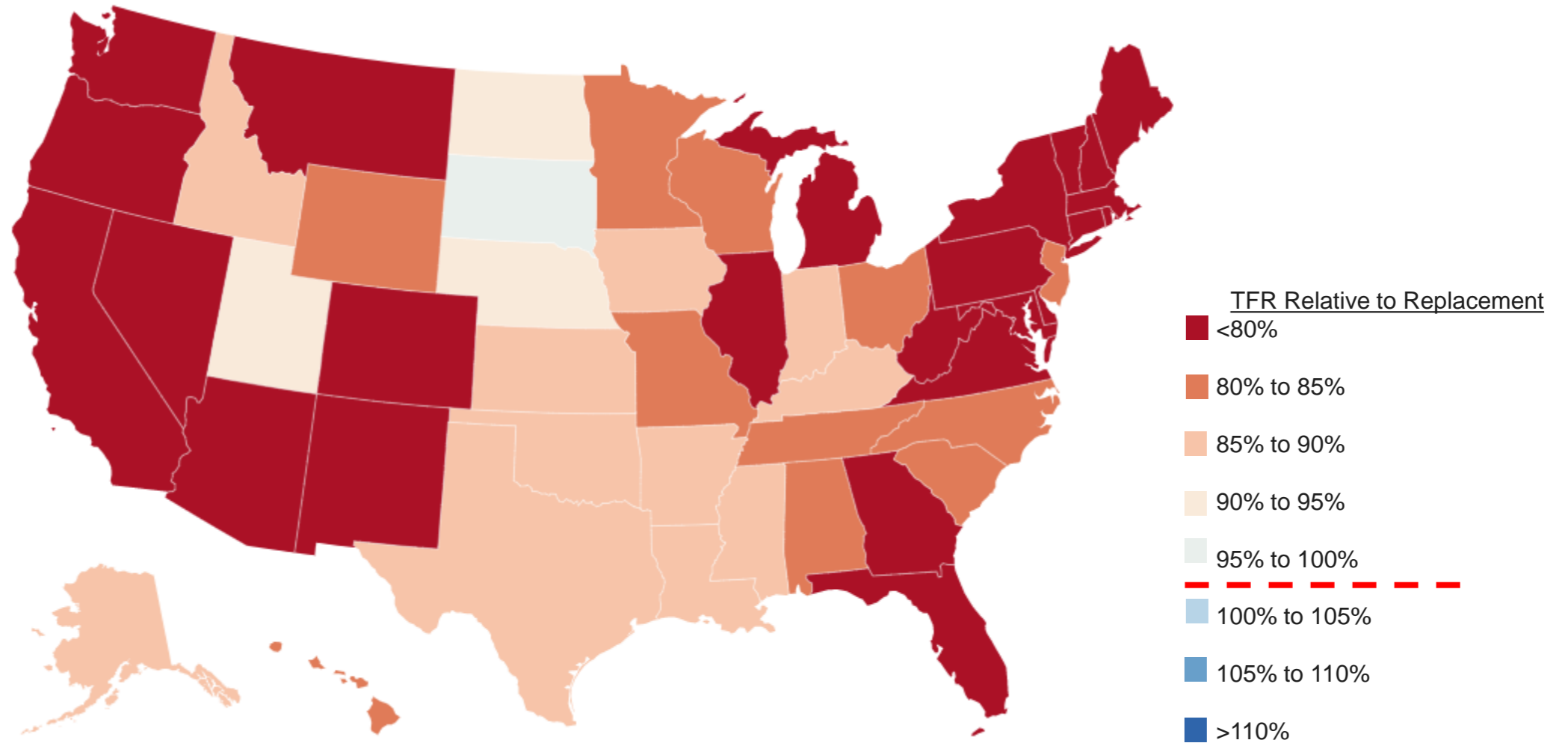
Consequence of Fertility Decline

Cumulative total: 8.6 million delayed or foregone births



Source: Kenneth M. Johnson (2021)

Total Fertility Rate per 1000 Women, 2021



Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

Source: National Vital Statistics Reports Vol. 72, no. 1

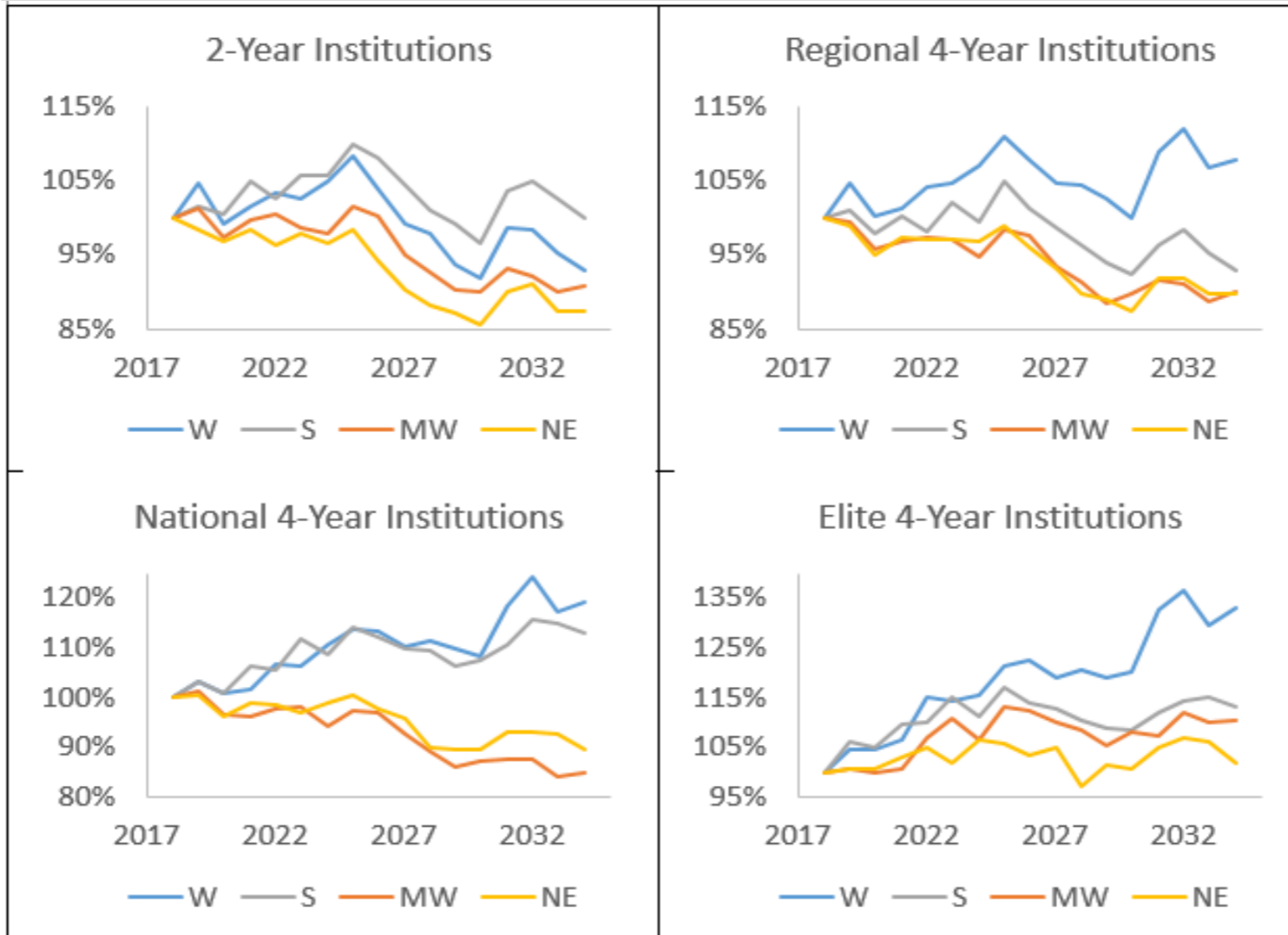
We've entered a new age.

“Until just a few years ago, colleges could anticipate classes of high-school graduates each bigger than the last.... But those days are over.”

Sara Lipka,

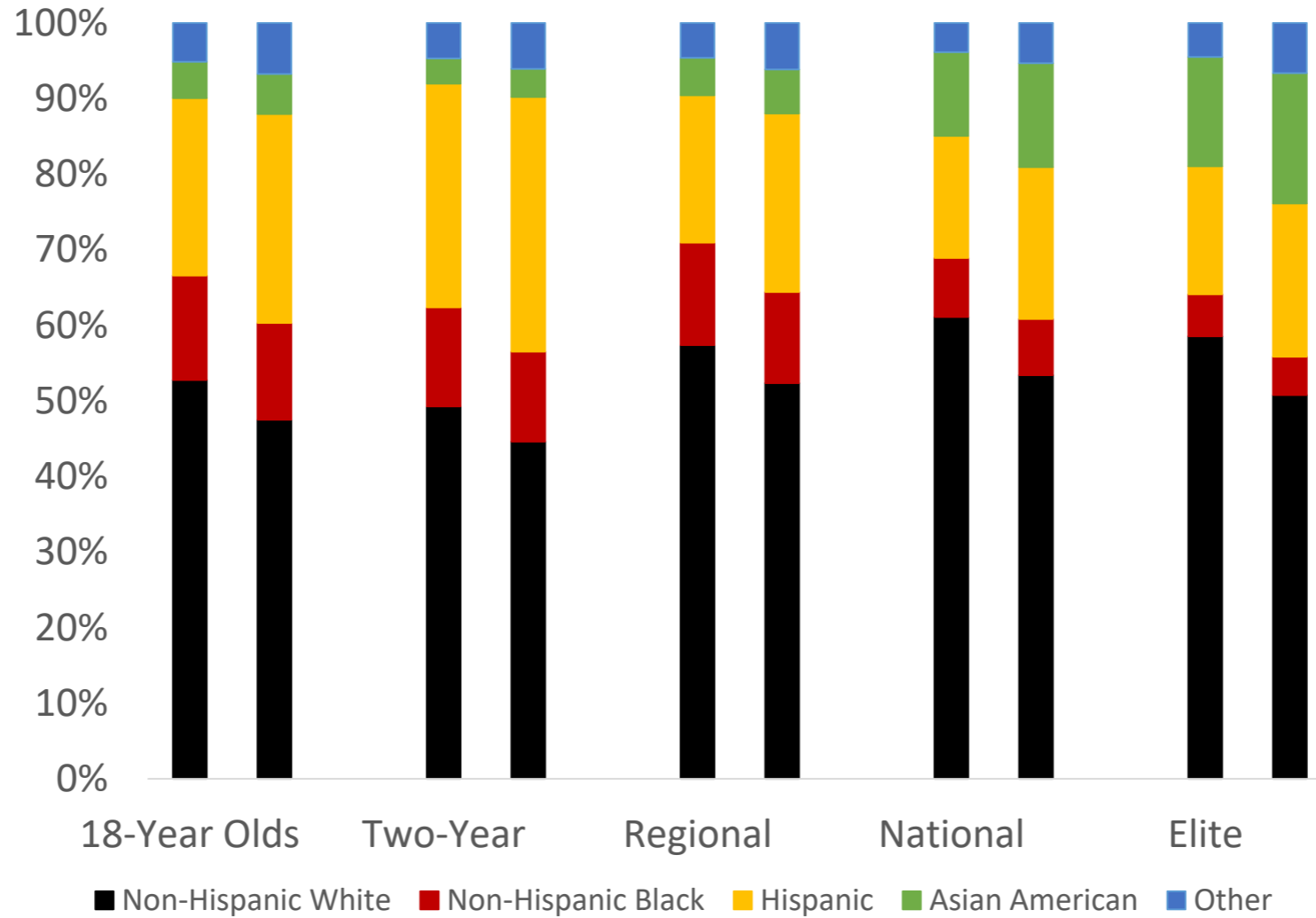
Chronicle of Higher Education (2014)

Projected Number of College-Going Students Relative to 2018, by Region



Source: Author's calculations based on data from the American Community Survey (2017), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Vital Statistics Reports (2018, 67(7)), 2009 High School Longitudinal Study (restricted and unrestricted), and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (2011; 2015)

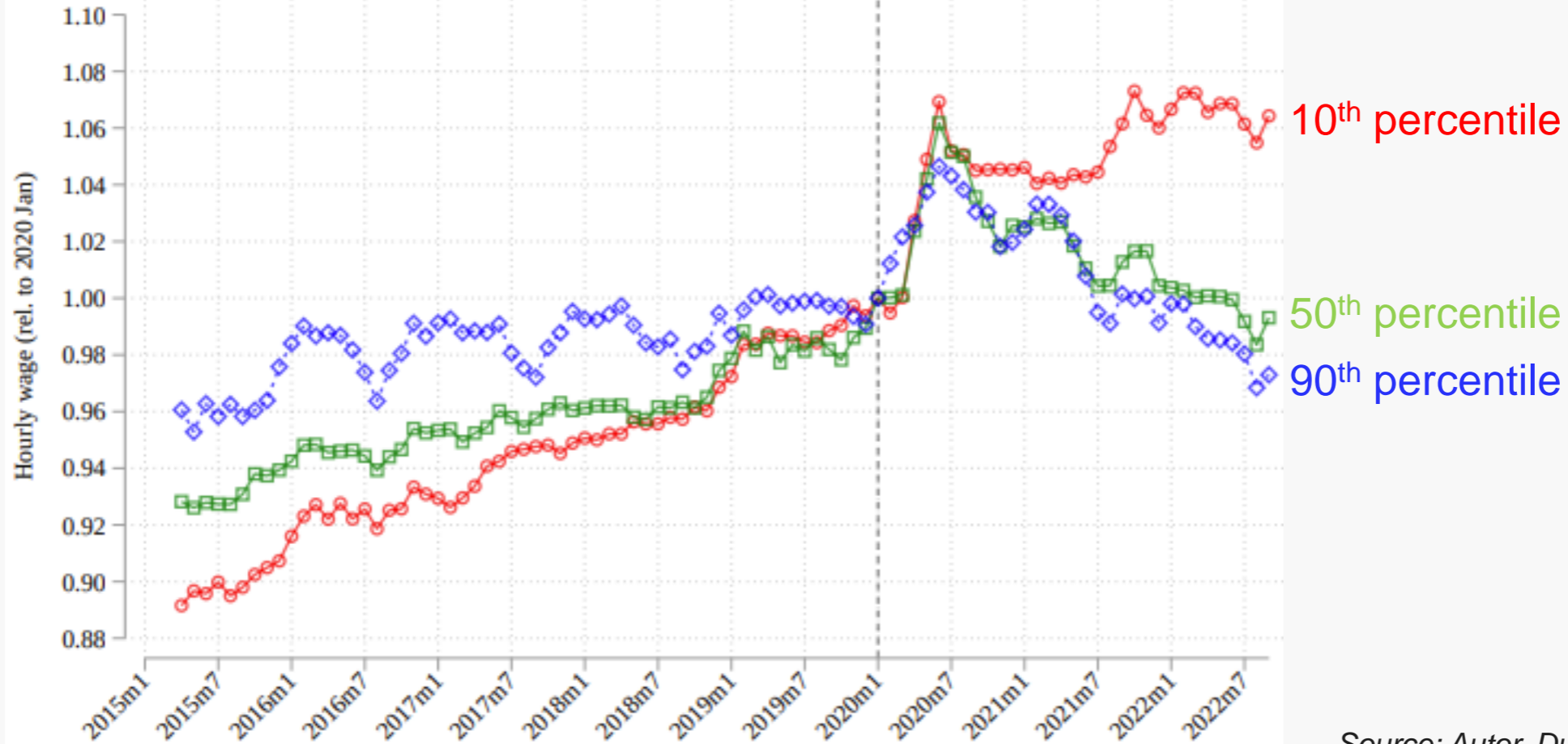
Race/Ethnicity Distribution of College-Going Students, 2018/19 and 2033/34



Source: Author's calculations based on data from the American Community Survey (2017), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Vital Statistics Reports (2018, 67(7)), 2009 High School Longitudinal Study (restricted and unrestricted), and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (2011; 2015)

Real Hourly Wages, Relative to January 2020

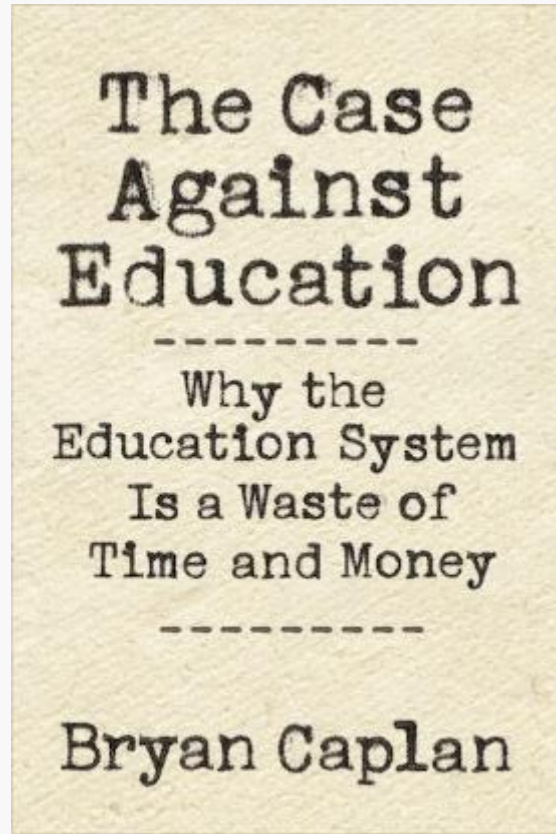
Wage compression → declining return to college degree



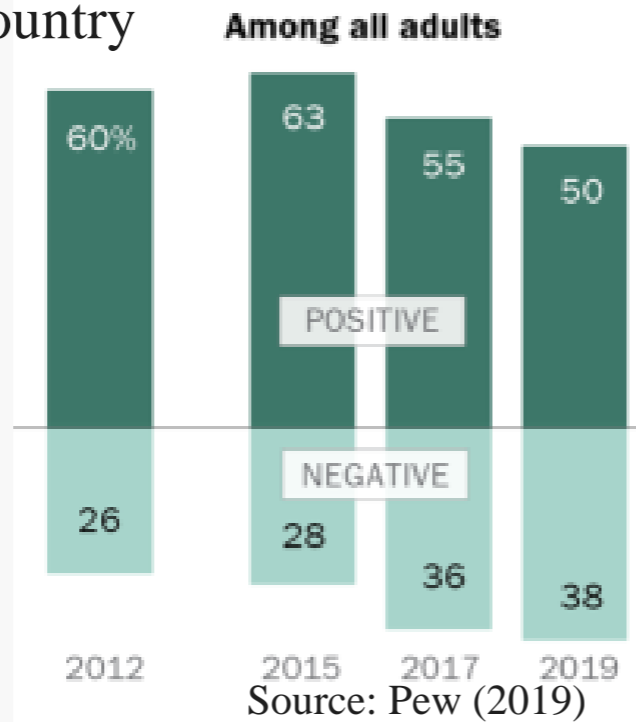
Source: Autor, Dube, and McGrew 2023

Cultural Trends

Evidence of higher ed's exceptional ROI is questioned.

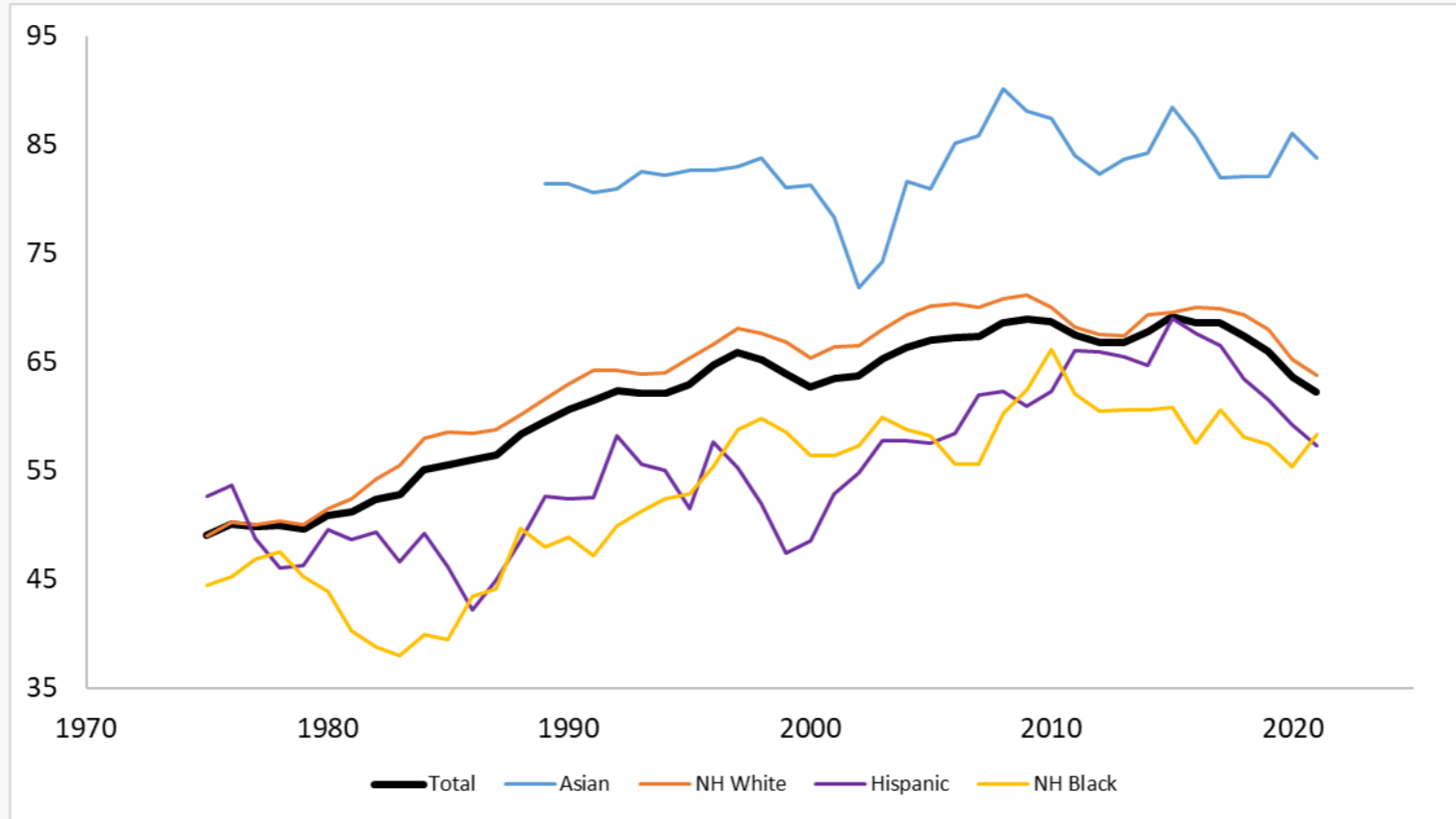


Share of Americans saying colleges and universities have a ___ effect on the way things are going in the country



Postsecondary Enrollment among HS Graduates (3-Year Average), 1975-2021

Declines pre-date COVID



Source: Digest of Education Statistics (n.d.)

Higher Education Responds

Approaching Examples from Others

Importance of mission/context & accountability

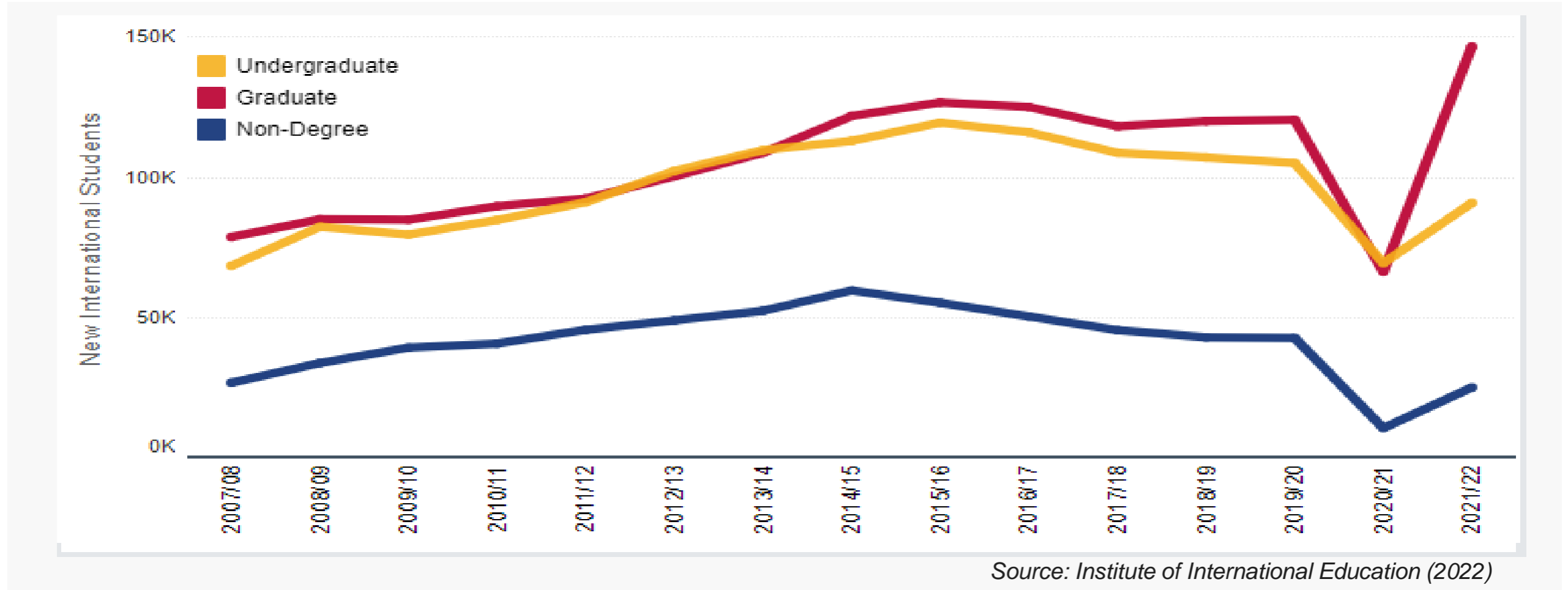


 Institute for
Healthcare
Improvement

100k
lives

New International Student Enrollments 2007/08-2021/22

Evidence of increased competition



Preparing for a Turn to New Student Groups

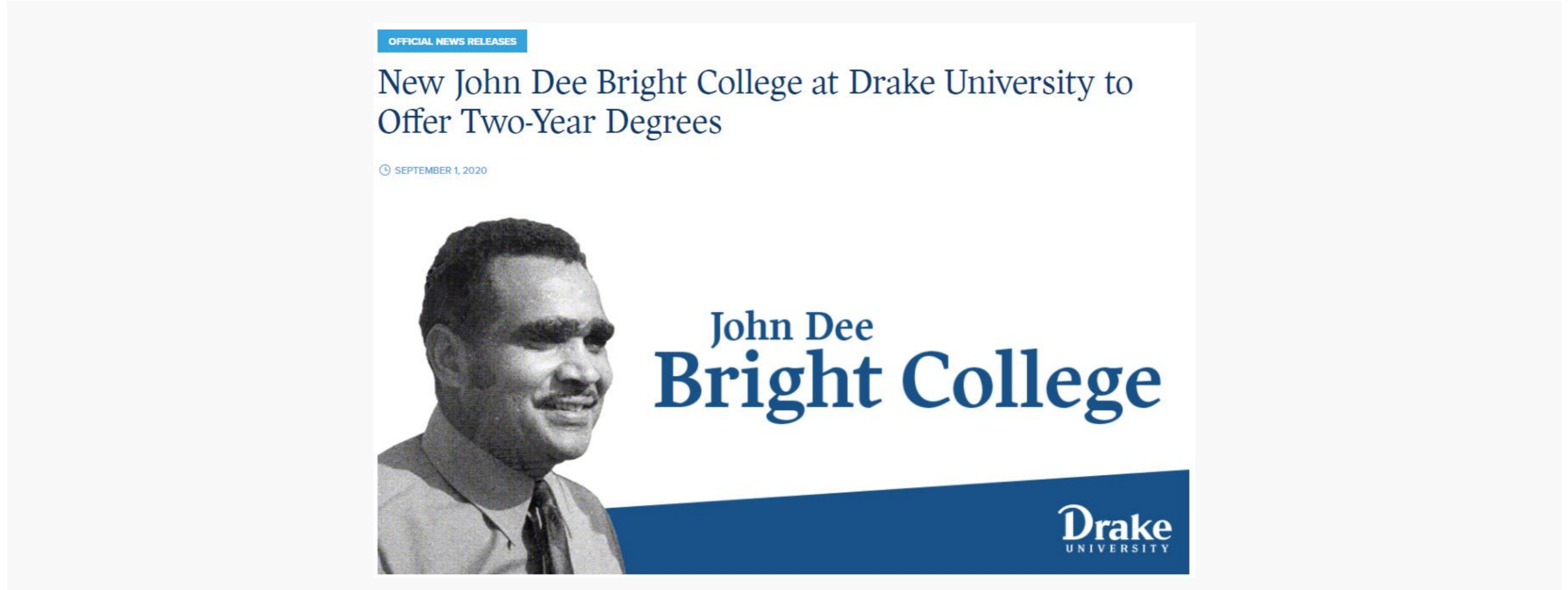


Pam Eddinger
President, Bunker Hill
Community College

“Unless we have had professional development along the way that invites us to think about equity work, a lot of educators are caught within the questions ‘Why aren’t you bringing me the right students? What is wrong with students today?’ ... Unless you are deeply reflective institutionally, you don’t go to question [ingrained practices].”

Reconsidering Self-Identity


Separating core mission from sacred cows



OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASES

New John Dee Bright College at Drake University to Offer Two-Year Degrees

🕒 SEPTEMBER 1, 2020



John Dee
Bright College

Drake
UNIVERSITY

Attention to Student Success



MALE SUCCESS ALLIANCE



Academic Programming

From College to Life:

Relevance and the Value of Higher Education

May 2018



GALLUP®

- **Relevance strongly predicts value and quality.** The more relevant people find their courses to be to their work and daily lives, the greater their belief that they received a high-quality education and that it was worth the cost. Compared with those who strongly disagree, consumers who strongly agree that the courses they took are relevant to their careers and lives are:
 - 63 percentage points more likely to strongly agree that their education was worth the cost.
 - 50 percentage points more likely to strongly agree that they received a high-quality education.

Collaboration

Shared mental health providers



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA OMAHA

About ▼

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Student Li

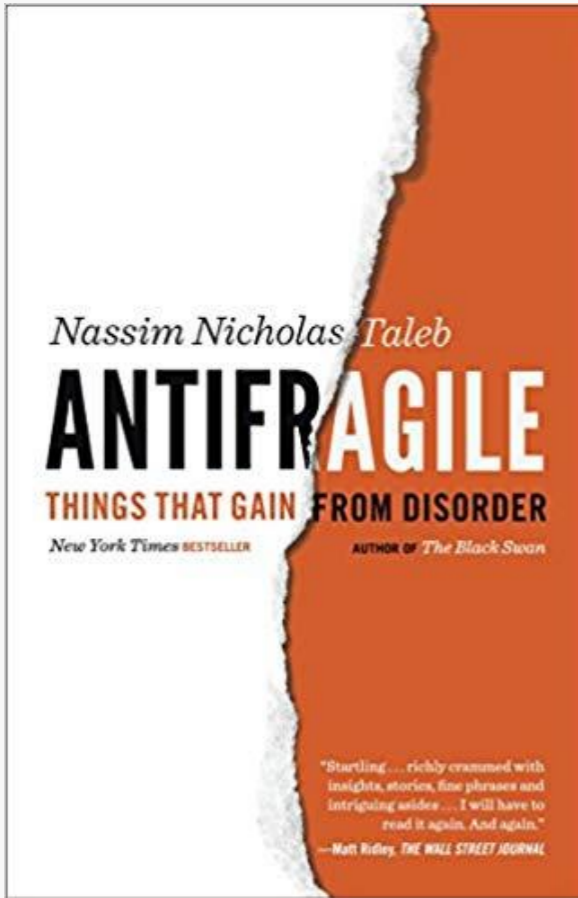
MCC, UNO, UNMC Announce Network to Improve Student Success

Collaboration

System collaboration



A Constructive Metaphor



“Antifragility is beyond resilience or robustness. The resilient resists shocks and stays the same; the antifragile gets better.”

Thank You

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Data Sources

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