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PRESS RELEASE

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New Study Links Tuition Inflation to Ban on Employer Testing

Higher education think tank releases a new report that raises questions about the impact of the historic Griggs v. Duke Power case on the rise in college enrollment, tuition and pay differential.

Washington, DC – The Center for College Affordability and Productivity (CCAP) and the John William Pope Center for Higher Education Policy jointly released a new study, *Duke v. Griggs: Implications for College Credentialing*, that investigates the higher education implications of the landmark 1971 Supreme Court decision that banned discriminatory job-related testing, unless it was a “business necessity”. The study concludes that the Court’s decision may have inadvertently pushed employers to begin using the college degree, in lieu of testing, to sort prospective employees and the *Griggs* decision may be partially responsible for soaring college enrollment, tuition, and income inequality between college and high school graduates.

The study ultimately suggests that the Court’s ruling may have caused more harm than help by making it more difficult for disadvantaged socio-economic candidates to secure jobs, as the costs of attaining the college credential serve as barrier. The report focuses on the implications of the 1971 court case and asks the questions: Have increased restrictions on the testing of potential employees led to an increase in college enrollment over the past 30 years? And if so, can increased government regulation explain the much touted earnings premium that comes with a college degree? The political environment, judicial actions, and legislation leading up to and following the historic case are explored in raising concerns over the economic impact of the Court’s decision.

The study is authored by Bryan O’Keefe and Dr. Richard Vedder. Mr. O’Keefe is the former assistant director of CCAP. Dr. Vedder is the director of CCAP and distinguished professor of economics at Ohio University. CCAP is a Washington, DC based higher education think tank that began operating in 2006. The JW Pope Center for Higher Education Policy is a Raleigh, NC based policy institute that began operating in 2003.

The full study can be downloading from the CCAP website at: http://www.centerforcollegeaffordability.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=45600 or from the JW Pope Center website at: http://www.popecenter.org/inquiry_papers/article.html?id=2087. A printed version of the report can also be obtained by calling CCAP offices at 202-375-7831.

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Mr. O'Keefe and Dr. Vedder are also available for media interviews about this report and its findings. To schedule an interview, please contact CCAP at 202-375-7831.