

Columbia International University

Preparing World Christians To Know Him And To Make Him Known



WHY MANY MORE CHRISTIAN STUDENTS NEED TO STUDY AT CIU

April 2005

Dear friends of CIU,

Two questions were recently discussed at a conference of Christian college enrollment officers. Here are the questions:

"What happens to Christian young people when they go to non-Christian public colleges or universities?"

"Is the lower price of non-Christian public colleges and universities worth the cost?"

Consider these amazing empirically verified statistics* . . .

- ◆ 85% (almost 300,000) of genuinely Christian high school seniors in North America choose to attend a non-Christian college or university (public or private), while only 15% choose to attend a Christian school.
- ◆ One of the main reasons that Christian high school seniors and their parents choose a public institution is *lower cost*.
- ◆ Of Christian students who attend a public institution, at the end of their college career approximately 53% will no longer identify themselves as born-again or will not have attended any religious service in the prior 12 months.
- ◆ The vast majority of decline in religious commitment experienced at public institutions occurs in the freshman year.
- ◆ The average growth in spiritual values and commitment is significant when attending a Christian college or university versus the decline in these same areas when attending any type of non-Christian institution – public or private.
- ◆ The spiritual values and attitudes reflected by college seniors are those most often reflected throughout their adult lives.
- ◆ Students almost always reflect the values of the faculty of the college or university they attend. ►

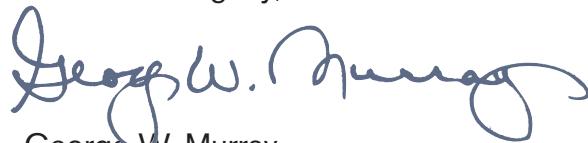
President's Letter

Oh, I know there are exceptions to these statistics. In fact, I know a Christian family with two children, one of which went to a secular university while the other attended a fine Christian school. The one who attended the Christian school is *running from* the Lord today, and the one who attended the secular school is *walking with* the Lord today. But that doesn't change the overall thrust of the statistics cited above. Please pray that many more Christian students graduating from high school will seriously consider studying at CIU! A major factor in their choice of college, understandably, is price. CIU, a private institution, costs more than the average state (public) university. *But the lower economic price of a state school is not worth the cost spiritually.*

One of the ways we seek to make CIU affordable is to provide *financial aid* to our students. Currently we provide \$1.2 million annually, made possible by sacrificial giving from people like you. We still need \$330,000 in gift income for student financial aid to fully fund our commitment this year. Please pray with us, and consider a gift for student financial aid through our CIU Annual Fund. Thank you for prayerfully considering this.

Of course, our desire at CIU is not just to have graduates who are strong Christians, but who are strong "Great Commission" Christians. Why? Because millions are still waiting to hear the gospel for the first time. Will you join us in a fresh commitment to see an increasing number of Christian young people preparing to serve the Lord at Columbia International University?

Yours for His glory,



George W. Murray
President

* www.christianconsulting.net



"Growth in spiritual values and commitment is significant when attending a Christian college or university."

Columbia International University

Preparing World Christians To Know Him And To Make Him Known