

# Higher Education for Democracy: A Report of the President's Commission on Higher Education (1947)



“...the President's Commission on Higher Education has attempted to select, from among the principal goals for higher education, those which should come first in our time. They are to bring to all the people of the Nation:

Education for a fuller realization of **democracy** in every phase of living.

Education directly and explicitly for **international understanding and cooperation**.

Education for the application of creative imagination and trained intelligence to the **solution of social problems** and to the administration of public affairs.

Education is by far the biggest and the most hopeful of the Nation's enterprises. Long ago our people recognized that education for all is not only democracy's obligation but its necessity. Education is the foundation of democratic liberties. Without an educated citizenry alert to preserve and extend freedom, it would not long endure.”

Truman Commission on Higher Education, *Higher Education for Democracy: A Report of the President's Commission on Higher Education*, vol. 1, *Establishing the Goals* (New York, 1947).  
Emphasis added by AAC&U.