Hi Hildreth Institute

IMPACT REPORT

5 YEARS IN REVIEW

2018-2022
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"As Hildreth Institute marks its fifth year anniversary we are taking the opportunity to reflect on all we have accomplished, the connections we've forged, and take stock of what we have learned along the way.

From the very beginning, our goal has been to increase equity in all aspects of higher education – from the application process through post-graduation. To that end, we've worked to inform policy through a thoughtful and actionable research-based agenda, one that helps develop innovative solutions to improve the way we fund higher education, increase college access and success, and eliminate the student debt burden.

By supporting policy reforms, HI has directly impacted the lives of underserved college students across the Commonwealth. Key wins include: more need-based financial aid for Massachusetts students, increased consumer protections for student borrowers, and additional funding and resources for public higher education.

Our work is not going unnoticed. In 2021, HI received the Excellence Award in Advocacy from the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network for our work establishing a Student Loan Borrower Bill of Rights in Massachusetts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our local and national partners, our team members, and those who have advised HI and helped to expand our reach and impact during this critical phase of our organization.

HI would not be where it is today without the support and leadership from our founder, Bob Hildreth. For decades, critical issues around higher education, immigration, and civil rights have been advanced because of Bob's dogged advocacy and support. Bob's energy and commitment to the work necessary for positive change is contagious and we continue to be propelled by his unwavering enthusiasm and commitment to reforming higher education.

This is just the beginning. We recognize the importance of building diverse coalitions as we seek to bring about impactful change and we look forward to reaching out to our old and new partners. As we begin year six, we look forward to our collective work towards an inclusive, diverse, and equitable society.

Thank you.
OUR WHY:
Confronting Inequity in Higher Education

Education is understood to be an engine of upward social and economic mobility.

But the current system of financing college through student loans has led to a vicious cycle of increasing college costs and a growing debt burden for students.

We are here to change that.
Hildreth Institute is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to restoring the promise of higher education as an engine of upward mobility for all.

We are committed to fixing the broken college financing system by promoting innovative policy solutions at the federal and state levels, in order to invest in higher education while eliminating the burden of student debt.
HOW
HI STANDS APART AS A RESEARCH INSTITUTE

OUR GOAL: ACTIONABLE HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY SOLUTIONS

Rigorous Research & Analysis

Equity-Based Policy Lens

Democratizing research with accessible reports

Community-Engaged Policy Development

Empowering Awareness Campaigns
OUR RESEARCH

Using an equity lens, we research and analyze existing systems and programs to develop actionable evidence-based policy recommendations.

- Massachusetts’ Disinvestment in Higher Education
- Massachusetts’ Largest Need-Based Grant is So Small
- Massachusetts’ Lending Failure
- The Magic Formula to More than Doubling State Funding for Public Higher Education
- Why Massachusetts Needs its Own Student Loan Bill of Rights

Issue Papers Series on Massachusetts' Higher Education
DIG DEEP, AIM HIGH

EQUITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION:
A PROMISE UNFULFILLED BUT STILL ACHIEVABLE

A White Paper on Creating Equity in College Affordability.

BAHAR AKMAN IMBODEN, PH. D.
This report was funded in part by the Melinda Gates Foundation’s Spark Grant.

JUNE 2020

PRIVATE STUDENT LOANS
The riskiest way to finance college is becoming the last resort for too many students.

BAHAR AKMAN IMBODEN

LOSING INTEREST
No Interest Student Loans with a Cost Offset

The federal government lends no-interest loans to students.

Borrowers repay principal only over a set period of years.

The principal repayments are invested in risk-free assets to generate a return over time.

Once matured, the funds are used to cover the administrative cost of the program as well as to issue new student loans.

August 2022
ESTABLISHING THE SLBBR

In response to mounting evidence of the student loan servicing industry’s failure to adequately and fairly service borrowers, establishing a Student Borrowers’ Bill of Rights in Massachusetts became one of our first priorities.

- **2018**: Identified the issue, conducted research, and released findings in an issue paper.
- **2019**: Launched a large-scale education campaign presenting our findings and gained wide press coverage.
- **2020**: Advocated and testified at the State House along with borrowers and partners at public hearings.
- **2021**: Formed a coalition of 56 state and national organizations to urge the passage of the SLBBR in MA.
- **2022**: Governor Baker signed the SLBBR into law.

850,000 MA borrowers who collectively owe more than $40B in student loans gained basic consumer protections. 850,000 MA borrowers who collectively owe more than $40B in student loans gained basic consumer protections.
FORGING POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS

we wish to thank our partners who fought with us for the Student Loan Borrowers’ Bill of Rights!

WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN ACHIEVE ANYTHING!
Increasing financial aid to students at public colleges and universities was one of our top priorities. We worked to reactivate the MA Endowment Match program, which matches private endowment donations for scholarships with state dollars.
TESTIMONIALS

THE LIVES WE IMPACT

Our impact is personal. With the Endowment Match Fund re-activated, more students at public institutions receive much-needed scholarships to cover their cost of their college.

"Receiving this scholarship motivates me to maintain my GPA and complete my degree. I look forward to being able to give back to the community once I begin my career in nursing."
- Aimee Ayers

"For me this scholarship is showing me that my hard work is paying off and I can’t thank you enough for your help and support to reach my goals."
- Janely Santana

"The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time on studying. Thank you again for your generosity and support. I promise you I will work very hard and eventually give back to others as a teacher."
- Katilyn Decker

Dear Family,

My name is Rylie Leblanc-Guertin. In the fall I will be in my junior year of nursing school at Fitchburg State University. Outside of school I work as a CNA at a local nursing home where I have worked since I was a senior in high school. Health care has been a passion of mine since I can remember. Growing up with a disabled mother, she always showed me how wonderful the school was. As I grew older I began hearing how fantastic the nursing program and the success rate is for their BSN RN program. After college, I plan to work with young children who have disabilities as well as post partum mothers and their newborns. This scholarship has greatly impacted the time I will have to study due to working to pay for studying, rather than working to fund my education.

Thank you so much!

Rylie Leblanc-Guertin
$150 million in additional endowment funds for MA public higher education institutions

Increased funding for need-based grants and scholarships for MA students

> 850,000 student borrowers have protections to ensure fair loan servicing

> $1 million in funding to 20,000 families with college savings accounts

Increasing higher education access and success while reducing student debt burden
We were honored to be awarded the Nonprofit Excellence Award in Advocacy by the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network!

We received this award for leading the coalition and advocacy efforts resulting in the passage of the Student Loan Borrower’s Bill of Rights in Massachusetts.

With this new law, 850,000 Massachusetts residents who collectively owe more than $40 billion in student debt have gained rights and protections that ensure that they receive adequate and fair loan servicing.
HILDRETH IN THE MEDIA

The Boston Globe 1872
Serving our community for 150 years

If state universities get endowment boost from Legislature, thank this guy

By Jon Chesto Globe Staff,

NEWS
OVER 40 OP-EDS PUBLISHED

MEDIA FEATURES OF RESEARCH REPORTS

TV COVERAGE OF FINDINGS
OUR PRESENCE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

GET REGULAR UPDATES WHEN YOU CONNECT WITH US

WWW.HILDRETHINSTITUTE.ORG  @HILDRETHINSTITUTE   @HILDRETHINSTITUTE  @HILDRETH INSTITUTE  @HI_HILDRETH
Our organizational strategy revolves around five pillars:

1. Increase accountability and transparency in college pricing
2. Reduce the debt burden on students and families
3. Protect current and next generation of student borrowers from predatory higher education actors
4. Increase funding for public higher education
5. Increase equitable college access and success

Looking forward, we aim to address these key areas to improve the overall college funding and college access landscape.
OUR BOARD

As we evolve, so too does our team, our governance structure, and our strategy.

We welcomed two new members, each of whom brings a wealth of experience in the field of higher education: Sally Currier, an independent education management professional who is deeply dedicated to youth, education, and social justice work; and Stacy Scott, who has spent his career advancing educational opportunities and is the Founder and President of the Center for Understanding Equity, which promotes the study and practice of equity in education.

Bob Hildreth I President of the Board
Charles Desmond I Board Member
Sally Currier I Board Member
Stacy Scott I Board Member

OUR TEAM

Our team’s capacity expanded with two critical hires in the past year. In May, Emily Fitzmaurice joined as our first ever Director of Policy and Public Affairs, bringing a decade of experience working on policy initiatives and political campaigns throughout Massachusetts. In September, we welcomed Hiba Agha, who brings a strong analytical and research expertise to our team as our Research and Development Associate. With these two women rounding out our team, HI is ready to build upon the success we’ve had while expanding the scope and reach of our work.

Bahar Akman Imboden I Co-Founder & Managing Director
Emily Fitzmaurice I Director of Policy & Public Affairs
Hiba Agha I Research & Development Associate
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Your financial support allows us to continue researching the complex issues around inequity in higher education and making policy recommendations that have a concrete impact on student's lives. Please consider supporting our work.

DONATE
THANK YOU