

**A POSTSECONDARY REVIVAL: THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOSITY FOR POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT GROWTH**

Neil R. Meredith, West Texas A&M University  
David B. Mustard, University of Georgia

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**ABSTRACT**

Using institutional and state-level data from the National Center for Education Statistics, we explore the degree to which enrollment grows from 1991 to 2005 in religiously affiliated postsecondary institutions relative to their private secular counterparts. After controlling for institutional characteristics, we find that enrollment in religiously affiliated colleges and universities grows 13, 28, 22, 14, and 11 percentage points more for total, whites, blacks, Hispanics, and males, respectively, than private secular institutions. Because simply having a religious affiliation can have little or no bearing on an institution's policies and mission, we evaluate whether the intensity of an institution's attachment also affects enrollment gains. Enrollment gains in institutions in the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCCU), for whom Protestant faith is a direct determinant of institutional mission, are significant. For example, after controlling for other factors total enrollment grows 12 percentage points, black enrollment grows 32 percentage points, Hispanic enrollment grows 20 percentage points, and female enrollment grows by 15 percentage points relative to other Protestant institutions, which in turn are growing faster than their private secular counterparts.

Keywords: *Education, Religion*