



THE EDUCATION CONSERVANCY

“BEYOND RANKING: Responding to the Call for Useful Information”

Conference Announcement

The Education Conservancy is sponsoring a day-long invitational conference on September 25, 2007 in New Haven, Connecticut, to be hosted by the Yale University Office of Undergraduate Admissions. The conference will focus on the prospects for developing a robust, voluntary, open-ended information system that families, students and counselors could use to obtain and compare educationally relevant information about colleges.

The Education Conservancy is inviting educational leaders, technology experts, education association executives, foundation directors, academic researchers and others who are participating in the national discussion of alternatives to commercialized ranking systems. Presenters and participants will be asked to address key questions: if we could design a web-based system that would best serve the informational needs of students and families, what would it look like, what information would it include, how could colleges be compared with each other, and who would be the key players in design, implementation, and funding? The Education Conservancy will publish conference notes on its web site, and the day's closing session will focus on the question of how next steps might be taken toward a collaborative project that would be national in scope and open to participation by all undergraduate institutions.

This forum is especially timely. Growing discussion of the role that commercial rankings are playing in admissions, the potential for federal imposition of metrics for quality and assessment, and the need for colleges themselves to communicate more effectively with their own constituencies all suggest that colleges should work together to provide reliable information to the public regarding their diverse strengths and capabilities.

The Education Conservancy is sponsoring this meeting at the request of leaders in education who wish to move a national dialogue forward, and Yale Undergraduate Admissions has agreed to act as a host as part of its continuing commitment to fostering dialogue on college admissions and the public interest.

Attendance at the Beyond Ranking conference to be held September 25 at Yale University will be limited by the available space and is by invitation only. If you are interested in the conference and would like to receive an invitation, you may write to Lloyd Thacker at lthacker@educationconservancy.org. Please include information about your area of expertise and your purpose in attending the meeting.