Looking Under the Hood: Using Interactive Tools to Make Better Institutional Aid Allocation Decisions

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The AGB/NACUBO Institutional Aid Project

- Funded by the Woodruff Foundation
- Three year project to develop “metrics” that higher education presidents, trustees, & chief business officers can use to have deeper conversations about their institutional aid policies and other financial aid related issues
- Key issue: Are institutional grant policies and practices consistent with the mission and values of the institution?
- Metrics criteria:
  - Metrics should be simple and use easily accessible data sources
  - Metrics should reflect an institutional perspective
  - Metrics are intended for internal discussions only
  - Metrics should be relevant to a diverse set of higher education institutions
Developed institutional finance and financial aid metrics (Using data from IPEDS and the College Board Annual Survey of Colleges), such as:

- Institutional grants as a percentage of tuition and fee revenue and total operating expenses
- Net tuition and fee revenue
- Need vs. merit (non-need) grants
- Cumulative student loan debt

Published articles in AGB Trusteeship and NACUBO Business Officer magazines

Developed a Web-based tool for use by institutional leaders (www.underthehood.org)
Example of Metric in Need of National Data #1

**FIGURE 4** Distribution of Institutional Grant Aid Dollars by Adjusted Gross Income, Public 4-Yr Research University

23.3  
15.0  
17.7  
13.3  
9.7   
21.0

Source: Looking Under the Hood Institutional Aid Survey, 2013; calculations by authors

Example of Metric in Need of National Data #2

Figure 3: Institutional-Aid Dollars Awarded by Adjusted Gross Income, Three-Year Average 2009–2011
Public Four-Year Research University

Data Source: Looking under the Hood institutional aid survey, 2013. Calculations by author.

To Sign Up for Access to the Tool:

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