

# INCREASING ACCOUNTABILITY IN AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION

American Enterprise Institute

November 17, 2009

The collected papers from this conference are  
available online at [www.aei.org/event/100134](http://www.aei.org/event/100134).

# Why Rankings Are Not Evil

***And how their global spread will help universities improve***

“Every individual that we can inspire, that we can guide, that we can help to start a new company, is vital to the future of our economic welfare.”

— Ewing Kauffman

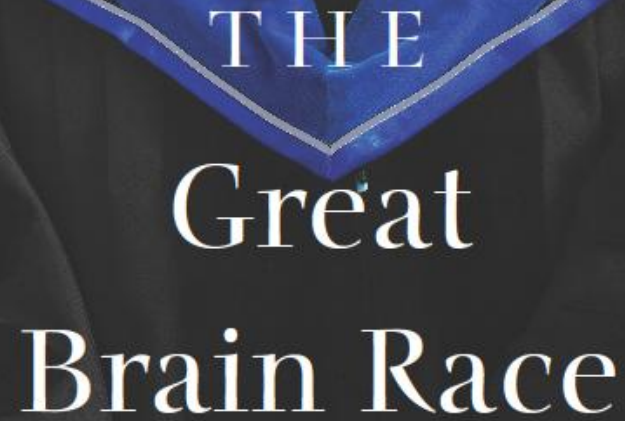
Ben Wildavsky  
“Increasing Accountability in  
American Higher Education”  
American Enterprise Institute  
November 17, 2009

**KAUFFMAN**

The Foundation of Entrepreneurship

# The growth of global rankings

- *U.S. News* rankings – 800-pound gorilla
- Spread of 40-plus national-level rankings, from Peru to Kazakhstan
- Emergence of global rankings – most influential are produced by Shanghai Jiao Tong University and *Times Higher Education*
- AHELO - OECD experiment with value-added rankings
- What's next?



THE  
Great  
Brain Race

How Global Universities  
Are Reshaping the World



BEN WILDAVSKY



SETTING-UP EXERCISE

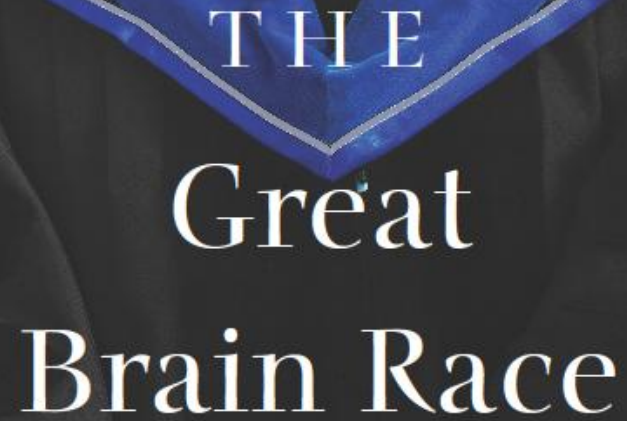
	Average of 15,000 students at Yale, Amherst and Cornell.	Average on entering University of California.	Average after two years' instruction, University of California.	Average Increase.
Weight, in kilos .....	61.2	58.3	63.2	4.9
Height, in M. M. ....	1725	1724	1734	10
Girths :				
Neck .....	349	336	355	19
Chest—repose .....	880	830	881	51
Chest—full .....	927	882	932	50
Right thigh .....	517	491	519	28
Left thigh .....	512	489	521	31
Right calf .....	359	340	352	12
Left calf .....	349	335	349	14
Right upper arm .....	295	291	314	23
Left upper arm .....	291	285	306	21
Right forearm .....	267	261	271	10
Left forearm .....	261	256	269	13
Strengths :				
Back .....	137	115	148	33
Legs .....	166	145	223	78
Upper arm .....	92	80	141	61
Forearm .....	40	40	46	6
Lung capacity .....	3.7	3.8	4.3	.5

Source: *Illustrated History of the University of California, 1868 - 1895*

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BEN WILDAVSKY

# Haiku

by Ben Wildavsky

as cherry blossoms  
fall each year, colleges are  
ranked. Get used to it.

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