**COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC EDUCATION’S**

**2020 NATIONAL ECONOMIC CHALLENGESM**

**CRITICAL THINKING ROUND**

**QUESTION FOR STUDENTS**

**\*AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC USE ONLY\***

**THE ISSUE:**

The cost of post-secondary education has been increasing at faster rates than prices across the economy. At the same time, post-secondary education has become increasingly important in assisting graduates to enter better paying, productive careers.

There is much press coverage of stagnant median income while real GDP per capita and income at upper quadrants of income continue to rise. It appears that the majority of Americans’ incomes have not increased in real terms in the last 30 years.

One of the proposals has been to provide free post-secondary education to all students.

**THE PROBLEM:**

If we were to provide free post-secondary education, what would be the benefits, both short-term and long-term? How would we pay the cost of post-secondary education? What would be the consequences, both short-term and long-term? Are there alternative economic policies that would address the problem?

**YOUR TEAM’S TASK:**

Your group is a non-partisan advisory team that is meeting today to provide an economic overview of the issues surrounding free post-secondary education.

Your audience is interested in getting an educated economic perspective as to the possible costs and benefits. Consider secondary effects and unintended consequences of any possible policies.

Identify possible future alternative economic policies. Evaluate each of those alternatives.  Specify relevant goals. Based on that analysis and your goals, make a policy recommendation. You will be judged on the quality of your economic analysis.