# TABLE OF CONTENTS

From our Managing Director ..............................................................1  
Our Why: Confronting Inequity in Higher Education...........2  
Mission/Vision ..................................................................................3  
How HI Stands Apart ......................................................................4  
Our Research ..................................................................................5 - 6  
Establishing the SLBBR.................................................................7  
Forging Powerful Partnerships....................................................8  
Activating the Endowment Fund...............................................9  
Testimonials.....................................................................................10  
Our Impact.........................................................................................11  
Celebrating Our Impact...............................................................12  
Hildreth in the Media......................................................................13  
Our Presence on Social Media ....................................................14  
Looking Forward ...........................................................................15  
Our Board/Our Team ................................................................16
"As Hildreth Institute marks its fifth year anniversary we are taking the opportunity to reflect on all we have accomplished, the connections we’ve forged, and take stock of what we have learned along the way.

From the very beginning, our goal has been to increase equity in all aspects of higher education – from the application process through post-graduation. To that end, we’ve worked to inform policy through a thoughtful and actionable research-based agenda, one that helps develop innovative solutions to improve the way we fund higher education, increase college access and success, and eliminate the student debt burden.

By supporting policy reforms, HI has directly impacted the lives of underserved college students across the Commonwealth. Key wins include: more need-based financial aid for Massachusetts students, increased consumer protections for student borrowers, and additional funding and resources for public higher education.

Our work is not going unnoticed. In 2021, HI received the Excellence Award in Advocacy from the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network for our work establishing a Student Loan Borrower Bill of Rights in Massachusetts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our local and national partners, our team members, and those who have advised HI and helped to expand our reach and impact during this critical phase of our organization.

HI would not be where it is today without the support and leadership from our founder, Bob Hildreth. For decades, critical issues around higher education, immigration, and civil rights have been advanced because of Bob’s dogged advocacy and support. Bob’s energy and commitment to the work necessary for positive change is contagious and we continue to be propelled by his unwavering enthusiasm and commitment to reforming higher education.

This is just the beginning. We recognize the importance of building diverse coalitions as we seek to bring about impactful change and we look forward to reaching out to our old and new partners. As we begin year six, we look forward to our collective work towards an inclusive, diverse, and equitable society.

Thank you.
Our Why:
Confronting Inequity in Higher Education

Education is understood to be an engine of upward social and economic mobility.

But the current system of financing college through student loans has led to a vicious cycle of increasing college costs and a growing debt burden for students.

We are here to change that.
Hildreth Institute is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to restoring the promise of higher education as an engine of upward mobility for all.

We are committed to fixing the broken college financing system by promoting innovative policy solutions at the federal and state levels, in order to invest in higher education while eliminating the burden of student debt.
HOW
HI STANDS APART AS A RESEARCH INSTITUTE

OUR GOAL: ACTIONABLE HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY SOLUTIONS

- Rigorous Research & Analysis
- Equity-Based Policy Lens
- Democratizing research with accessible reports
- Community-Engaged Policy Development
- Empowering Awareness Campaigns
OUR RESEARCH

Using an equity lens, we research and analyze existing systems and programs to develop actionable evidence-based policy recommendations

- Massachusetts’ Disinvestment in Higher Education
- Massachusetts’ Largest Need-Based Grant is So Small
- Massachusetts’ Lending Failure
- The Magic Formula to More than Doubling State Funding for Public Higher Education
- Why Massachusetts Needs its Own Student Loan Bill of Rights

Issue Papers Series on Massachusetts' Higher Education
DIG DEEP, AIM HIGH

EQUITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION: A PROMISE UNFULFILLED BUT STILL ACHIEVABLE

A White Paper on Creating Equity in College Affordability.

BAHAR AKMAN IMBODEN, PH. D.

This report was funded in part by the Melinda Gates Foundation’s Spark Grant.

JUNE 2020

Our Research Papers

PRIVATE STUDENT LOANS
The riskiest way to finance college is becoming the last resort for too many students.

BAHAR AKMAN IMBODEN

LOSING INTEREST
No Interest Student Loans with a Cost Offset

The federal government lends zero-interest loans to students.

Borrowers repay principal only over a set period of years.

The principal repayments are invested in risk-free assets to generate a return over time.

Once matured, the funds are used to cover the administrative cost of the program as well as to issue new student loans.

August 2022
ESTABLISHING THE SLBBR

In response to mounting evidence of the student loan servicing industry’s failure to adequately and fairly service borrowers, establishing a Student Borrowers’ Bill of Rights in Massachusetts became one of our first priorities.

Launched a large-scale education campaign presenting our findings and gained wide press coverage.

Advocated and testified at the State House along with borrowers and partners at public hearings.

Formed a coalition of 56 state and national organizations to urge the passage of the SLBBR in MA.

850,000 MA borrowers who collectively owe more than $40B in student loans gained basic consumer protections.

2018: Identified the issue, conducted research, and released findings in an issue paper.

2019: Connected to and learned from peer organizations in other states that passed their own SLBBRs.

2020: Published and distributed a fact sheet on the pressing need for student borrower protections in MA.

Governor Baker signed the SLBBR into law.

2022: New Student Loan Ombudsperson established under the Attorney General.
FORGING POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS

we wish to thank our partners who fought with us for the Student Loan Borrowers’ Bill of Rights!

WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN ACHIEVE ANYTHING!
ACTIVATING THE ENDOWMENT FUND

Increasing financial aid to students at public colleges and universities was one of our top priorities. We worked to reactivate the MA Endowment Match program, which matches private endowment donations for scholarships with state dollars.
"Receiving this scholarship motivates me to maintain my GPA and complete my degree. I look forward to being able to give back to the community once I begin my career in nursing."

-Aimee Ayers

"For me this scholarship is showing me that my hard work is paying off and I can’t thank you enough for your help and support to reach my goals."

-Janely Santana

"The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time on studying. Thank you again for your generosity and support. I promise you I will work very hard and eventually give back to others as a teacher."

-Katilyn Decker
OUR IMPACT

RESEARCH & POLICY ANALYSIS

$150 million in additional endowment funds for MA public higher education institutions

EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS

Increased funding for need-based grants and scholarships for MA students

PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

> 850,000 student borrowers have protections to ensure fair loan servicing

ADVOCACY

> $1 million in funding to 20,000 families with college savings accounts

CHANGED LIVES

Increasing higher education access and success while reducing student debt burden
We were honored to be awarded the Nonprofit Excellence Award in Advocacy by the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network!

We received this award for leading the coalition and advocacy efforts resulting in the passage of the Student Loan Borrower’s Bill of Rights in Massachusetts.

**With this new law, 850,000 Massachusetts residents who collectively owe more than $40 billion in student debt have gained rights and protections that ensure that they receive adequate and fair loan servicing.**
HILDERETH IN THE MEDIA

The Boston Globe
1872
Serving our community for 150 years

If state universities get endowment boost from Legislature, thank this guy

By Jon Chesto Globe Staff,
OUR PRESENCE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

GET REGULAR UPDATES WHEN YOU CONNECT WITH US

WWW.HILDRETHINSTITUTE.ORG  @HILDRETHINSTITUTE  @HILDRETHINSTITUTE  @HILDRETH INSTITUTE  @HI_HILDRETH
LOOKING FORWARD

Our organizational strategy revolves around five pillars:

- Increase accountability and transparency in college pricing
- Reduce the debt burden on students and families
- Increase equitable college access and success
- Protect current and next generation of student borrowers from predatory higher education actors
- Increase funding for public higher education

OUR PILLARS
OUR BOARD

Sally Currier I Board Member
Stacy Scott I Board Member
Charles Desmond I Board Member

OUR TEAM

Bob Hildreth I President of the Board

Our team’s capacity expanded with two critical hires in the past year. In May, Emily Fitzmaurice joined as our first ever Director of Policy and Public Affairs, bringing a decade of experience working on policy initiatives and political campaigns throughout Massachusetts. In September, we welcomed Hiba Agha, who brings a strong analytical and research expertise to our team as our Research and Development Associate. With these two women rounding out our team, HI is ready to build upon the success we’ve had while expanding the scope and reach of our work.

Emily Fitzmaurice I Director of Policy & Public Affairs
Hiba Agha I Research & Development Associate

As we evolve, so too does our team, our governance structure, and our strategy.

We welcomed two new members, each of whom brings a wealth of experience in the field of higher education: Sally Currier, an independent education management professional who is deeply dedicated to youth, education, and social justice work; and Stacy Scott, who has spent his career advancing educational opportunities and is the Founder and President of the Center for Understanding Equity, which promotes the study and practice of equity in education.

Bahar Akman Imboden I Co-Founder & Managing Director

Charles Desmond I Board Member
Sally Currier I Board Member
Stacy Scott I Board Member
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Your financial support allows us to continue researching the complex issues around inequity in higher education and making policy recommendations that have a concrete impact on student's lives.

Please consider supporting our work.

DONATE
THANK YOU