

Last April, *The New York Times* drew lots of attention with its report that elite colleges now turn down over nine out of ten applicants.¹ Stanford University, the West Coast “Ivy”, has the lowest acceptance rate at just 5%. Less noticed in the *Times* report was the fact that over the past 7 years there has been a widening gap in the admission rates of men and women. This comes as no major surprise for many of my generation. For the past 6 years, I have been associated with a college counseling company that specializes in getting students accepted into universities at a time when college acceptance has become increasingly difficult. During my high school years, I was a client of this company and utilized as much of their service as I could. I was applying to college as an economics major, something that I hoped might make me stand out. In one of my sessions with my college counselor, Billy, I remember him discussing what he called “reverse” gender discrimination that was growing in higher education institutions. He told me upfront that the only chance I had in getting into a top academic institution would be to apply in economics because that area had not been saturated by women yet.

My decision on which schools to apply to was made in 2010, three years before publication of *The Rise of Women: The Growing Gender Gap in Education and What it Means for American Schools*. Authors Thomas A. Diprete and Claudia Buchmann provide much-needed and solid analysis of gender differentials in the American educational system today. Diprete and Buchmann are sociology professors at Columbia University and Ohio State University, respectively, and have written widely on these subjects in the past. However, what really kicked off their interest was anecdotal evidence of the gender gap both experienced as parents, as well as Buchmann’s personal issues with gender discrimination in the professions. It is this foundation for their questions that allows them to look at the gender gap as a whole process versus just the end result of a degree attained. In fact, in the “Preface”, the autho