

Calif. housing costs a barrier to college

By Nanette Asimov, San Francisco Chronicle

The problem with California's public colleges and universities is not in the quality of their academic offerings – it's that the schools don't do enough to help students find affordable places to live, according to a new statewide survey about higher education.

That's the view of a large majority of Californians – 85 percent – who participated in the Public Policy Institute of California's annual survey of attitudes on the state's public higher-education systems.

Most of the 1,703 residents who answered questions in English or Spanish by phone last month said they like the quality of education provided by community colleges, California State University and the University of California – more than 63 percent in each case.

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