

## **Press Release**

### **(embargo until 6 am on Wednesday, Oct. 18)**

In advance of the new academic school year, the Shores Institute is releasing a higher education report card containing excerpts from its forthcoming *Shores Handbook 2017* by Prof. Dan Ben-David.

With the new academic school year beginning next week, the Shores Institute for Socioeconomic Research is releasing excerpts from the *Handbook* that provide a report card of sorts on the state of Israel's system of higher education. Main highlights from the Shores findings include:

- In 1970, the share of prime working age Israelis with an academic education was the smallest of all education groups – today it is the largest group (pg 16).
- The share of prime working age Israelis with academic degrees is greater than in all but three other countries worldwide (pg 29).
- Huge gaps in academic attainment between prime working age population groups (pgs 30-31):
  - Large gap between secular and religious Jews, though attainment rising in both (pg 30);
  - Haredi academic attainment is very low and, contrary to conventional wisdom – it has remained relatively constant since mid-2000s (pg 30);
  - Though still very low, academic attainment among Arabic-speaking Israelis has risen substantially over past decade – particularly among women (pgs 30-31).
- Huge differences in the quality of academic institutions and in the subsequent wages of graduates (pgs 26, 32). In addition, there exist large wage gaps between graduates from different disciplines.
- After having risen precipitously since 1990, the share of Israeli students in higher education has leveled off, and even declined slightly in recent years (pg 76).
- The number of senior faculty positions per capita in Israel's research universities has fallen steadily by 60% since the mid-1970s, reflecting a major shift in national priorities (pg 77).
- Significantly more university graduate students are instructed by substantially fewer senior faculty members (pg 78).
- Multi-decade decline in national expenditure on higher education per student has been reversed in recent years (pg 79-80). However, public spending per student is still among the lowest in the OECD.
- The quality of academic research (as measured by average citations per publication) has been converging across the developed world – with Israel's top academic research institutions catching up with America's best (pg 81-82).

to download the [Shores higher education report card](#)

to download this [press release](#)

(password for both files: shores2017)

**For details, or to arrange an interview, please contact Prof. Dan Ben-David (054-428-7443) or Prof. Ayal Kimhi (054-882-0430)**

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