



**SCHOLARS**  
STRATEGY NETWORK

## The Challenges Rural Students Face After Admission

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The federal government's **plan** for expanding opportunity in rural America—to the extent there is one—seems to be trade school. Forget college, President Trump says. Build a workforce, and the jobs will come. To rural communities ravaged by restructuring and a public increasingly skeptical of a college degree, the message may sound enticing.

But trade schools alone will not erase the **widening rural-urban wealth gap**. A **bachelor's degree** remains the surest path to the middle class. And rural youth deserve the same opportunities that nonrural youth have, including college.