

FROM NEWS LEGEND AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

**DAN RATHER**

“SUBPRIME GOES TO COLLEGE”



# FAIL STATE



SDCF AND NEWS & GUTS PRESENT AN ALEXANDER SHEBANOW FILM "FAIL STATE"

NARRATOR GIBSON FRAZIER ARCHIVAL PRODUCER JENNIFER LATHAM STORY CONSULTANT STEPHEN BURD

RESEARCHER ISABEL PONTE GRAPHICS BIGSTAR MUSIC SUPERVISORS BROOKE WENTZ MARYAM BATTAGLIA

ORIGINAL MUSIC KEEGAN DEWITT JEREMY BULLOCK DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY JOEL KINGSBURY

MICHAEL SWAIGEN OREN SOFFER ALEXANDER SHEBANOW ALEX HUFSCHMID EDITOR REGINA SOBEL

WRITERS ALEXANDER SHEBANOW REGINA SOBEL NICHOLAS ADAMS CO-PRODUCERS PHILIP KIM ELLIOT KIRSCHNER

JENNIFER LATHAM PRODUCERS ALEXANDER SHEBANOW JULIA GLAUSI TERENCE CRAWFORD TYLER COMES

ADAM BOLT ALAN OXMAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCER DAN RATHER DIRECTED BY ALEXANDER SHEBANOW

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**SDCF**

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team@failstatemovie.com

**News and Guts**

News and Guts, LLC  
<https://www.newsandguts.com/>  
Dan Rather, Phil Kim  
646-378-7400

[www.failstatemovie.com](http://www.failstatemovie.com)





# FAIL STATE

[Documentary Feature]

*Running Time:*

**93 minutes**

*Directed By:*

**Alexander Shebanow**

*Executive Produced By:*

**Dan Rather**

*Produced By:*

**Alexander Shebanow  
Julia Glausi  
Terrence Crawford  
Tyler Comes  
Adam Bolt  
Alan Oxman**

*Written By:*

**Alexander Shebanow  
Regina Sobel  
Nicholas Adams**

*Co-Produced By:*

**Elliot Kirschner  
Phil Kim  
Jennifer Latham**

*Publicity:*

**The 2050 Group**



# LOGLINE

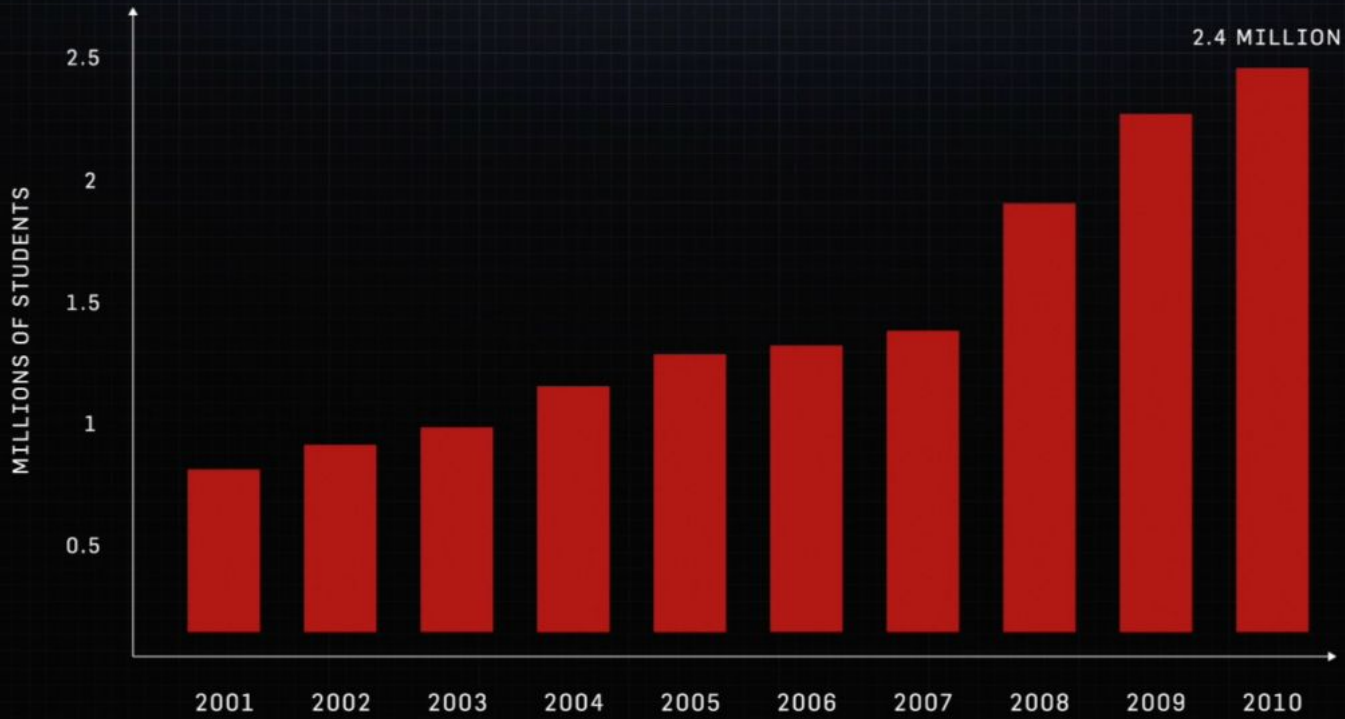
In an expansive documentary exposé, *Fail State* reveals the dark story behind the rise of predatory for-profit colleges and how a cabal of politicians and unscrupulous business tycoons sold out the dream of American higher education.

# SYNOPSIS

Executive produced by news legend Dan Rather, *Fail State* investigates the dark side of American higher education, chronicling the decades of policy decisions in Washington, D.C. that have given rise to a powerful and highly-predatory for-profit college industry. With echoes of the subprime mortgage crisis, the film lays bare how for-profit colleges exploit millions of low-income and minority students, leaving them with worthless degrees and drowning in student loan debt. Director Alexander Shebanow traces the rise, fall, and resurgence of the for-profit college industry, revealing its Wall Street Backing and the lawmakers enabling widespread fraud and abuse in American higher education.

# ENROLLMENT AT FOR-PROFITS

2001-2010



# FEATURED INTERVIEWS

- Senator Dick Durbin, Illinois
- Senator Tom Harkin, Iowa
- Governor Bill Haslam, Tennessee
- Congresswoman Maxine Waters, California
- Attorney General Jack Conway, Kentucky
- F. King Alexander, President and Chancellor, Louisiana State University
- Gail Mellow, President, LaGuardia Community College
- Sara Goldrick-Rab, Professor, Temple University
- Suzanne Mettler, Professor, Cornell University, Author of *Degrees of Inequality*
- Robert Shireman, Former Deputy Undersecretary, Department of Education
- Elizabeth Baylor, Senior Investigator, Senate HELP Committee
- Andrew Kelly, Director of Higher Education Policy, American Enterprise Institute
- Kevin Carey, Director of the Education Policy Program, New America
- Deanne Loonin, Attorney, Harvard, Project on Predatory Student Lending
- Matthew Reed, Vice President, Brookdale Community College, *InsideHigherEd*
- Jon Marcus, Editor, *The Hechinger Report*
- Michael Vasquez, Investigative Reporter, *The Miami Herald*
- Stephen Burd, Senior Policy Analyst, New America & *The Chronicle of Higher Education*
- David Halperin, Attorney, *RepublicReport.org*
- Chris Neiweem, Former Military Admissions, DeVry
- Laura Brozek, Former Director of Recruitment, ITT Tech
- Vince Martin, Former Admissions Representative, Everest University
- Zach Turner, Former For-Profit Student, ITT Tech
- Fred Nelson, Former For-Profit Student, Kaplan/ICM
- Murray Hastie, Former For-Profit Student Veteran, DeVry
- Jennifer Wilson, Former For-Profit Student, Everest College
- Bryan Babcock, Former For-Profit Student, ITT Tech
- Luis Tayahua, Former For-Profit Student, Westwood College
- Marquette Bascom, LaGuardia Community College Student





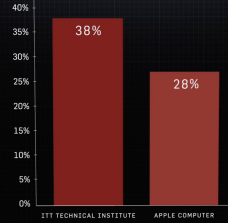
FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID TO FOR-PROFITS

2010

\$32 BILLION

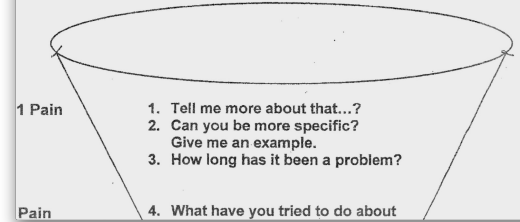
ITT EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, INC. VS. APPLE

OPERATING MARGINS 2010

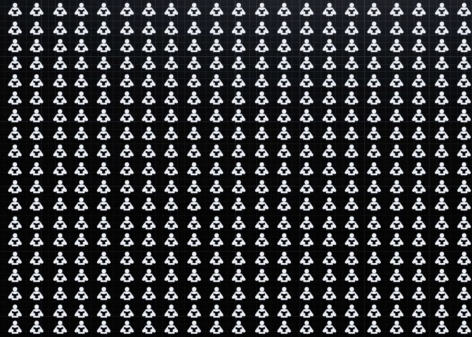


## 2. Pain Funnel and Pain Puzzle

Eight Questions



NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS

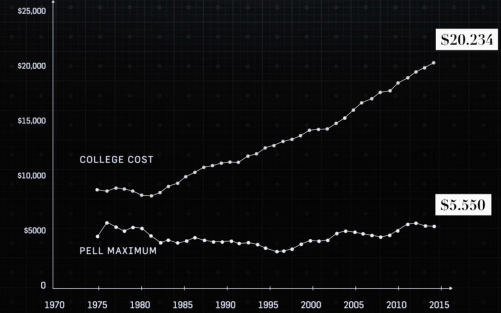


TRADITIONAL STUDENTS



PELL GRANT MAXIMUM VS. COLLEGE COST

1974-2013









# ALEXANDER SHEBANOW

DIRECTOR, WRITER, PRODUCER

“ Alex Shebanow is an unlikely scourge of for-profit education. He’s not an academic or a professional policy wonk. He isn’t even 30 yet. But as director of the new documentary film [Fail State](#), he goes after for-profit colleges with a ferocity that belies an otherwise gentle demeanor. ”

—*The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 12/4/17

# DAN RATHER

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

““ The film’s executive producer, news legend **Dan Rather**, describes *Fail State* as **“first-class investigative reporting.”** On a panel at [DOC NYC](#), Rather explained, “News is something that the public needs to know that somebody somewhere particularly some powerful person or forces don’t want the public to know. That is why I find this film not only so important but so timely. **It’s hard to find anything more outrageous than what’s happening at the for-profits.”**””







PRESS

FEATURED IN:

Forbes

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MNFF

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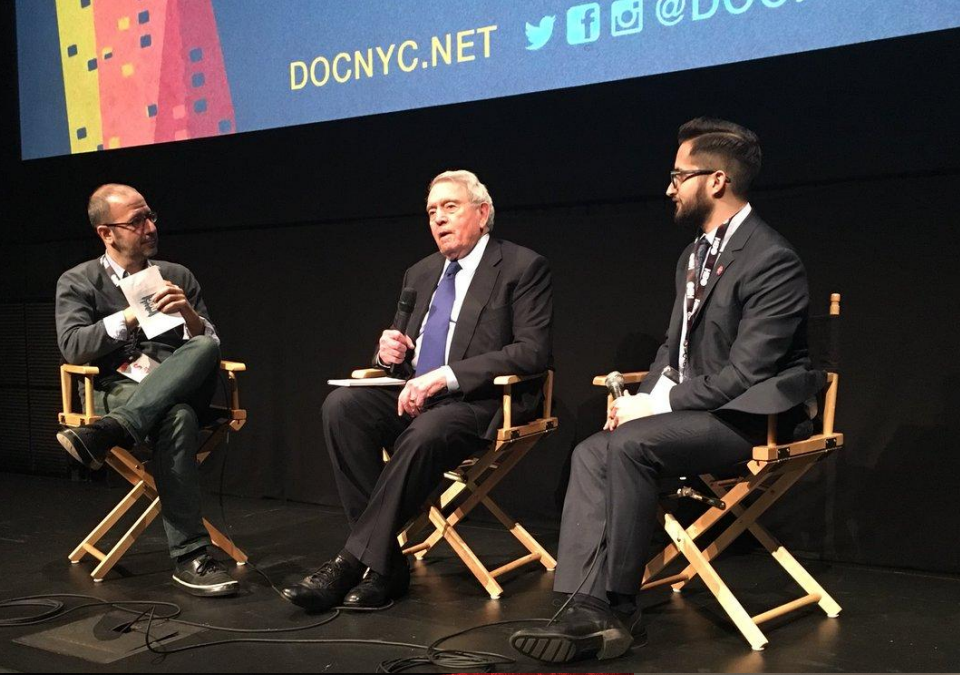
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[www.failstatemovie.com](http://www.failstatemovie.com)

