In last week’s column I reported on studies by researchers at the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) at the University of California, Los Angeles, showing the need for more efforts in diversifying colleges and universities, especially when it came to issues of discrimination.

Another study by the same group looked at the actions of the first-year entering class of 2015, the one that is expected to graduate in 2019. And you will see why this particular topic required our own column.

The study, titled “The American Freshman: National Norms Fall 2015,” predicts a much more activist group of college students in the years to come. The implications of this can be enormous, not only for college administration but also for politicians and the general public.

After surveysing 141,889 first-time, full-time students who entered 193 four-year universities and colleges of all types, these researchers found that “the entering freshman class of 2015 ranks among the most ambitious in these areas compared to their counterparts entering freshman class of 2015 ‘expects to be more involved with and serve to channel some of their concerns and enable them, “concludes this study.”

What does it mean for colleges and universities? As indicated in this column last week, not only do we need to diversify our campuses by increasing the representation of all students (faculty, staff, administrative) but also to create opportunities for students to be more engaged in positive interactions on campus.

Another increase has been seen in their intentions to commit to engage with their communities, with almost 75 percent of them considering helping others in a facility to be a “very important” or “essential” personal objective. That number has been in the number of students (nearly 40 percent) expressing strong commitment toward improving understating of other countries and cultures.

Further, the entering freshman class of 2015 showed a substantial increase over previous years in placing greater emphasis on wanting to help promote racial understanding (61.2 percent rating it “very important” or “essential”) and wanting to influence social value (63.3 percent rating “very important” or “essential”). The study also indicates “students also seem to not necessarily more committed to political engagement, as 25.3 percent report interest in the political issues of a ‘very important’ or ‘essential’ life objective.”

One matter of concern is that the entering freshman class of 2015 “expects to be more involved with and serve to channel some of their concerns and enable them, “concludes this study.”

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Another concern is that the interest in promoting racial understanding varies greatly according to race. American students (more than 68 percent) and Latino American students (more than 52 percent) indicated in this column last week, not only do we need to diversify our campuses by increasing the representation of all students (faculty, staff, administrative) but also to create opportunities for students to be more engaged in positive interactions on campus.

This big jump in activist intentions may well be related to the numerous racial incidents that have taken place on many campuses in the last year, such as the one at the University of Missouri, where the perception was that these problems were affecting disproportionately African-American. Latinos students reported the second highest level of intention, with 102.9 percent reporting a “very good chance” of participating in student protests while in college. Those figures for both Black and Latino students represented the highest recorded in the history of the trend “according to the report.”

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Dr. Aldemaro Romero Jr.
Letters from Academia

have strong expectations of participating in student protests in college. Yet the highest proportion for black students, with 36 percent indicating that there was a “very good chance” of participating in student protests while in college. That is a 5.5 percent jump from the previous year.

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Village
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On the agenda was a motion to enter into partnership with the Maryville Kiwanis Club for the annual Easter Egg Hunt, which will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 16. The egg hunt will be held at the St. Luke’s Methodist Church.

The city ordinance says containers should be collected within 12 hours of being emptied of household waste and 12 hours before pick-up. They shouldn’t be placed on the street until the morning of the day for collection. They also should not be placed on the street after 8 p.m. on the day before collection.

Another ordinance to be aware of involves garbage sale, for sale, for rent, or for personal use. These are allowed on private property but not in the right of way. If their trash has been left on the right of way at any point, they will be asked to remove it from the street. The department will contact the property owner and give them a time limit to remove the trash. An additional fee may also be charged. If the trash is not removed by the designated time, it will be removed by the city.

If a minimum of 30-percent of the faculty would show interest, the union could begin bargaining in the fall. And the city would have to have a faculty vote on the matter, he said. “But we don’t think that’s necessary to organize so faculty can carry out SIUE’s mission.”

Cigarette butts are a distraction. “These can create a hindrance to people,” Killibick said. “If they are left in the right of way, they may have to step over them to get to the sidewalk. This can be a safety hazard.”

Eliza said the city could “review the code that governs the city’s garbage service.”

The city is currently reviewing the garbage service and will be working with the city council to update the code. The city will also be working with the county to update the code and the state. The city is also working with the Illinois Department of Public Health to update the code.

If they are on the right of way or attached to a telephone pole or stop sign, they will be picked up by the city. If they are not in the right of way and are not attached to a telephone pole or stop sign, they will be picked up by the city. If they are not in the right of way and are not attached to a telephone pole or stop sign, they will be picked up by the city.

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