

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910457735703321
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Titolo	The pursuit of knowledge [[electronic resource]] : speeches and papers by Richard C. Atkinson / / edited by Patricia Pelfrey ; with a foreword by David S. Saxon
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, c2007
ISBN	1-281-75248-7 9786611752484 0-520-93394-X 1-4337-0839-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (225 p.)
Altri autori (Persone)	PelfreyPatricia A
Disciplina	378/.050974
Soggetti	Universities and colleges - Administration Education, Higher - Aims and objectives - United States College presidents - California Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Foreword -- Editor's Note -- A Brief History Of The Atkinson Presidency -- Remarks On Receiving The University Of Chicago Alumni Medal -- The Golden Fleece, Science Education, And U.S. Science Policy -- Remarks On Appointment As President Of The University Of California -- The Future Of The University Of California: A Personal View -- The Role Of The President Of The University -- Robert Gordon Sproul -- Tradition At The University Of California -- Diversity: Not There Yet -- The Numbers Game And Graduate Education -- Opportunities For Chinese And American Universities In The Knowledge-Based Economy -- The Globalization Of The University -- Academic Freedom And The Research University -- A New World Of Scholarly Communication -- Standardized Tests And Access To American Universities -- The California Crucible: Demography, Excellence, And Access At The University Of California -- Statement On The Vote By The College Board Trustees To Revise The SAT I -- College Admissions And The SAT: A

[Sommario/riassunto](#)

Richard C. Atkinson's eight-year tenure as president of the University of California (1995-2003) reflected the major issues facing California itself: the state's emergence as the world's leading knowledge-based economy and the rapidly expanding size and diversity of its population. As this selection of President Atkinson's speeches and papers reveals, his administration was marked by innovative approaches that deliberately shaped U.C.'s role in this changing California. These writings tell the story of the national controversy over the SAT and Atkinson's successful challenge to the dominance of the seventy-five-year-old college entrance examination. They also highlight other issues with national significance: U.C.'s experiments with race-neutral admissions programs; the challenges facing academic libraries and the University's pioneering activities with the California Digital Library; and the University's involvement in new paradigms of industry-university research. Together, these speeches and papers open a window on an eventful period in the history of the nation's leading public research university and the history of American higher education.
