1. Record Nr. UNINA9910792945903321

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Titolo At a Crossroads: : Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean

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Pubbl/distr/stampa Washington, D.C.:,: The World Bank,, 2017

ISBN 1-4648-1015-X

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (298 pages)

Collana Directions in Development; Directions in Development - Human

Development

Disciplina 378.8

Soggetti Education, Higher - Latin America

Education, Higher - Caribbean Area

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Nota di contenuto

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references at the end of each chapters.

vota di bibliografia

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Sommario/riassunto

Higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean has expanded dramatically in the past 15 years, as the average gross enrollment rate has more than doubled, and many new institutions and programs have been opened. Although higher education access has become more equitable, and higher education supply has become more varied, many of the 'new' students in the system are, on average, less academically ready than are their more advantaged counterparts. Furthermore, only half of higher education students, on average, complete their degree, and labor market returns to higher education vary greatly across institutions and programs. Thus, higher education is at a crossroads today. Given the region's urgency to raise productivity in a low-growth, fiscally constrained environment, going past this crossroads requires the formation of skilled human capital fast and efficiently. 'At a Crossroads: Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean' contributes to the discussion by studying quality, variety, and equity of higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean. The book presents comprehensive evidence on the recent higher education expansion and evolution of higher education labor market returns. Using novel data and state-of-the-art methods, it studies demand and supply drivers of the recent expansion. It investigates the behavior of

institutions and students and explores the unintended consequences of large-scale higher education policies. Framing the analysis are the singular characteristics of the higher education market and the market segmentation induced by the variety of students and institutions in the system. At this crossroads, a role emerges for incentives, information, accountability, and choice.