



The Kinds of Science That Americans Believe Universities, Government, Philanthropy, and the Private Sector Each Do Best

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Data from a benchmark study conducted by ScienceCounts in collaboration with Research!America and Edge Research as part of the RAISING VOICES FOR SCIENCE initiative.

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Americans see each having a specific expertise in scientific research.

Overall, the public overall view colleges/universities best at discovering how things work (65%), solving specific problems (39%), having no ideological agenda (39%), and fostering collaborations among scientists (36%).

In contrast, the perceived impact of college/university-based science on economic and social issues is much less.

Colleges/universities (20%) trail both the private sector (47%) and government (26%) in driving economic growth.

When it comes to benefiting the public at large, colleges/universities (21%) are viewed similarly to the private sector (20%), but fall well short of government (44%).

Regarding benefits to disadvantaged Americans, colleges/universities (19%) are viewed similarly to the private sector (17%), but trail both government (32%) and foundations (32%).

Percentage choosing the institution viewed as doing the best job in various aspects of science:

	Universities	Government	Private Sector	Foundations
Discovers how things work:	53%	18%	21%	7%
Has no ideological agenda:	39%	13%	24%	25%
Solves a specific problem:	39%	20%	33%	8%
Fosters collaborations:	36%	29%	20%	15%
Benefits the public at large:	21%	44%	20%	15%
Drives economic growth:	20%	26%	47%	6%
Benefits the disadvantaged:	19%	32%	17%	32%
Creates new processes & products:	15%	15%	65%	5%

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