

The Opinion Page

Obstacles to College

- 1 Princeton students are calling on the university's administration to stop receiving information about criminal records from the Common Application for undergraduate admission. At New York University, students leading the Incarceration to Education Coalition are making similar appeals in their "abolish the box" campaign, and Harvard undergraduates are organizing a campaign on their campus as well.
- 2 According to the Admissions Opportunity Campaign led by Students for Prison Education and Reform, or SPEAR, a Princeton student organization: "The United States criminal justice system is inequitable and ineffective. In light of the racial and economic discrimination perpetuated by U.S. justice institutions, we believe that past involvement with the justice system should not be used to evaluate personal character or academic potential."
- 3 2 "ban the box" on employment applications passes in many cities and states, universities have a chance to lead the movement in providing educational opportunities for more people.

adapted from *nytimes.com*, 2014