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## Quick Takes: Ind. Students Killed in Plane Crash, Asians Top Whites at U. of Calif., CEO Accused of Harassment Quits, Michigan Drug Benefit, Miss. Crackdown on Diploma Mills, Court Rejects Challenge to Calif. Stem Cell Center, Plan on Loan Tax Credit

April 24, 2006

By [Scott Jaschik](#)

**F**ive graduate students in music at Indiana University were killed in a plane crash Thursday, returning from a rehearsal for a concert. University officials released [biographies](#) of those killed and planned help for those who will be mourning them.

- As has been projected for several years now, the University of California for the first time admitted more Asian students than white students this year, [The San Jose Mercury News](#) reported. As Asian enrollments have gone up, many of the university system's campuses have seen [racial politics and attitudes](#) change.
- Charles Carlsen, who took a sudden leave of absence from the presidency of Johnson County Community College this month, has retired, [The Kansas City Star](#) reported. Carlsen took his leave after he was accused of sexually harassing an employee in 2003. While he denied the charges, he said that the accusations were a distraction for the college.
- The University of Michigan has announced a program, "MHealthy: Focus on Diabetes," that will allow diabetic employees and their dependents to receive some of their medications for free, starting July 1. The effort is believed to be the first program in the nation designed to evaluate the impact of targeted co-pay reduction for preventive medications. Participants will be charged no co-pay for certain drugs that control blood sugar, lower blood pressure, cut the risk of heart and kidney problems, and ease depression. All of the drugs chosen for "free co-pays" have been shown to help prevent diabetes complications that can be debilitating or fatal. More than 2,000 of the 69,700 employees and dependents covered by U-M benefits currently take medication for diabetes.
- Mississippi has a new law that allows the state's higher education board to go to court to try to shut down diploma mills in the state, [the Associated Press](#) reported. Mississippi has been among the states in which unaccredited institutions flourish.
- A California judge has rejected legal challenges to the new state agency, created in a statewide vote, to promote stem-cell research for which the Bush administration bars federal support, the [Associated Press](#) reported.
- The Project on Student Loan Debt has released [model legislation](#) to create a federal tax credit for student loan interest payments, aimed at easing the steadily increasing debt burden that many college students and graduates face.





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