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**Author**

BARROWS, Leland Conley

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**Abstract**

This article is based on the Final Report of the "International Seminar on the 'Emergence of Universities: New Higher Education Institutions and their Role in Local and Regional Development'," held in Zielona Góra, Poland, in May 2001. A first set of presentations argued strongly that the presence of higher education institutions in given regions is increasingly important for the continued development of these regions. However, for the presence of higher education institutions to be effective in regard to their regions, universities may have to be reorganized and smaller institutions merged. A second set of presentations detailed specific ways in which universities can be of service to their regions, as, for instance, in providing linguistic services and in furthering inter-ethnic and cultural understanding. A third set commented upon the converging roles of public and private institutions and discussed the challenges facing higher education in

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