

Tell Billionaire Marc Rowan:

HANDS OFF HIGHER ED

**No Compact! No Loyalty Oaths!
No Oligarchs!**

**Fri, Nov 7, 11AM
9 West 57th St, Midtown**

Protest Marc Rowan, the billionaire oligarch behind Trump's "Compact" for colleges and universities, outside his office at Apollo Global Management.

Defend the freedom to teach, learn, research, and speak out without government coercion or censorship!

Reject the racism, transphobia, anti-immigrant hate, and suppression of political dissent, history and science that the Compact threatens to bring to our campuses!

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"And so I put pen to paper at the end of last year and wrote what has become the national academic compact."

—Marc Rowan, CEO of Apollo Global Management, October 2025
([click to listen](#) at 27:23)

MEET THE BILLIONAIRE BEHIND TRUMP'S HIGHER ED LOYALTY OATH "COMPACT": Marc Rowan, CEO of Apollo Global Management

Private equity billionaire Marc Rowan donated \$1 million to elect Donald Trump in 2024, and he is a key author of the Trump administration's "Compact" for higher education: an unconstitutional loyalty oath that would award federal research funding based on political fealty, roll back the gains of the civil rights movement, and erode the freedom to teach, learn, and speak that are essential to education and to democracy itself.

Marc Rowan has no business making policy for higher education:

- **Rowan and Apollo have contributed to the crises of rising tuition and skyrocketing student debt.** Apollo is majority owner of the parent company of the University of Phoenix—the largest single producer of student debt in the country. Rowan donated \$50 million to create the Penn Wharton Budget Model, used to fight student loan cancellation. And Rowan sat on Penn's Board of Trustees from 2016-2023, when Penn tuition rose from \$51,464 to \$66,104.
- **As Chair of the Wharton Board of Advisors, Rowan spearheaded the attack on the University of Pennsylvania,** using false accusations of antisemitism to silence speech and academic programming, fundraising for Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) who launched a Congressional investigation of Penn, and proposing that the Trustees carry out a hostile takeover of the core academic functions of the university.
- Rowan takes credit for helping produce Donald Trump's 2019 executive order altering the interpretation of the 1964 Civil Rights Act to classify anti-Zionism as antisemitism. He boasts that the executive order is the basis of today's lawsuits charging schools with violating Title VI for allowing free speech critical of Israel.
- **Rowan's outsized influence owes to the wealth he derives from Apollo, one of the largest private equity firms in the country.** Apollo extracts profits from heavily indebted hospitals leading to worse outcomes for patients. It charges high fees to investors, including public pension funds and university endowments. It earned a "D" on a private equity watchdog group's Labor Scorecard and is associated with 11 bankruptcies—the highest number of any firm ranked there. And its insurance activities may put retirees' savings at risk.

Join the fightback



"I think we are going to see seismic changes in the standing of universities... Go back and look at who the leading universities were in Europe in the 1930s, in the 1940s. They don't exist any more. It is not that hard to destroy a university. It just takes a period of time."

—Marc Rowan, January 2025