

## WHY COMMUNITY COLLEGES?



Photo provided by Lone Star College-North Harris, Texas

With their open-access model and low tuition rates, community colleges are a gateway to opportunity. Nearly half of all undergraduates attend community college. That's a diverse student population with a diverse array of needs. Whether a student's goal is to transfer to a 4-year institution or to immediately join the workforce, community colleges can provide the preparation, training, and services that are needed for success.

**Flexibility.** More than half of community college students enroll part time. Many have jobs, families, and other obligations. Community colleges offer the flexibility to earn a degree or certificate at the right pace. Underprepared students can take developmental courses to prepare for college-level work. And at many community colleges, students can earn a degree entirely online.

**Location.** It's no coincidence the first word in community college is community. These 2-year colleges allow students to stay in their communities while attending classes. Most community colleges also have forged partnerships with local industry to provide specialized training, building a pipeline from the classroom to the workforce.

**Variety.** From culinary arts to criminal justice, nursing to nuclear technology, community colleges offer a range of programs and classes to help students prepare for further education or to gain employment in an in-demand field.

## STORIES OF STUDENT SUCCESS

### Intervening Early

About half the community college students in Illinois need at least one developmental course. Seven community colleges in Illinois are working with their area high schools to provide remedial math courses to high school students so they won't have to take developmental education in college. It's part of the state's STEM College and Career Readiness program. The intervention program includes a summer bridge program, support services, and information about STEM careers at no cost to students. All 13 students in the program at Olney Central College passed their algebra course and moved up to the next level.

### Bringing Economic Growth to Detroit

The Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) is playing a vital role in bringing economic growth to Detroit. WCCCD is connecting with businesses to provide training in growth areas in Detroit, such as advanced manufacturing, information technology, and health data management. With the Right Skills Now advanced manufacturing program, fast-track IT boot camps for companies like Quicken, and many other programs, WCCCD is ensuring that the city and its residents are able to move forward.

### Veterans' Time to Degree

At Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC), located near Fort Bragg in North Carolina, veterans and active military students can earn up to 48 of the 65 credits needed for an associate degree through prior learning assessments, accelerating their time to degree. The college has mapped a broad range of military occupational specialties to courses leading to a degree. FTCC, along with Inver Hills Community College in Minnesota and Miami Dade College, is part of the Maps to Credentials project, which helps the colleges create an integrated prior learning assessment model to promote accelerated college completion.

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

 [twitter.com/comm\\_college](https://twitter.com/comm_college)

 [www.facebook.com/CommCollege](https://www.facebook.com/CommCollege)

 <http://linkd.in/Kw8Mlu>

 [www.youtube.com/communitycolleges](http://www.youtube.com/communitycolleges)

## NUMBER AND TYPE OF COLLEGES

Public – 986  
Independent – 115  
Tribal – 31



**1,132**  
Total number of community colleges

## HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT (FALL 2012)

Program Type	#	%	Attendance	#	%
Credit <sup>2</sup>	7.7M	61%	Part-time <sup>2</sup>	4.6M	60%
Noncredit <sup>3</sup>	5.0M	39%	Full-time <sup>2</sup>	3.1M	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.8M</b>	<b>100%</b>			

Estimated change fall 2012 – fall 2013: -3.1%.<sup>4</sup>

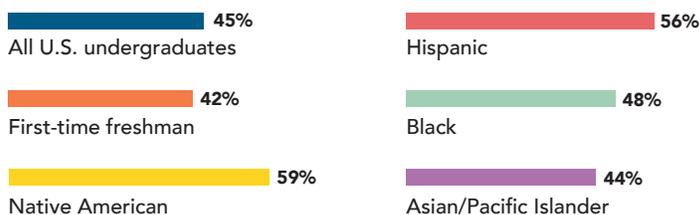
## STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Age <sup>5</sup>	%	Gender <sup>2</sup>	%	Ethnicity <sup>2</sup>	%
Average	28	Women	57%	White	51%
Median	24	Men	43%	Hispanic	19%
≤21	30%			Black	14%
22-39	57%			Asian/Pacific Islander	6%
40+	14%			Native American	1%
				2 or more races	2%
				Other/Unknown	5%
				Nonresident Alien	1%

## Other Student demographics<sup>5</sup>

First generation to attend college – 36%  
Single parent – 17%  
Non-U.S. citizens – 7%  
Veterans – 4%  
Students with disabilities – 12%

## REPRESENTATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS AMONG UNDERGRADUATES (FALL 2012)<sup>2</sup>



## EMPLOYMENT STATUS (2011–2012)<sup>5</sup>

Full-time student employed full time – 22%  
Full-time students employed part time – 40%  
Part-time students employed full time – 41%  
Part-time students employed part time – 32%

## STUDENT FINANCIAL AID (2011–2012)<sup>5</sup>

### % of students applying    % of students receiving

Any aid – 72%	Any aid – 58%
Federal aid – 62%	Federal grants – 38%
	Federal loans – 19%
	State aid – 12%
	Institutional aid – 13%

## % OF FEDERAL AID RECEIVED BY COMMUNITY COLLEGES (2012–2013)<sup>6</sup>

Pell Grants – 33%  
Federal Work Study – 16%  
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants – 21%

## AVERAGE ANNUAL TUITION AND FEES (2013-2014)<sup>7</sup>

Community colleges (public, in district) – \$3,260  
4-year colleges (public, in state) – \$8,890

## DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED (2011–2012)<sup>8</sup>



**770,797**  
Associate degrees



**436,037**  
Certificates

Bachelor's degrees awarded by 48 public and 82 independent colleges<sup>1,8</sup>

## REVENUE SOURCE<sup>9</sup>

Source	Revenue	%
Federal	\$9,135,894,867	16.1%
State	\$15,972,223,577	28.1%
Local	\$9,807,927,497	17.3%
Tuition	\$16,749,438,987	29.5%
Other	\$5,104,713,349	9.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$56,770,198,278</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Sources

<sup>1</sup> AACCC membership database, January 2014.  
<sup>2</sup> NCES (2014). IPEDS Fall 2012 Enrollment Survey [AACCC analysis].  
<sup>3</sup> AACCC membership database, 2014 [AACCC analysis].  
<sup>4</sup> National Student Clearinghouse. (2013). Term Enrollment Estimates Fall 2013.

<sup>5</sup> NCES. (2014). 2011-12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12) [AACCC analysis].  
<sup>6</sup> College Board. (2013). Trends in Student Aid: 2013.  
<sup>7</sup> College Board. (2013). Trends in College Pricing: 2013.  
<sup>8</sup> NCES. (2014). IPEDS 2011 Completion Survey [AACCC analysis].  
<sup>9</sup> NCES. (2014). IPEDS 2012 Finance Survey [AACCC analysis].