

Community colleges can't deliver for us unless we deliver for them.

Delivering Economic Benefits

- An associate degree increases earnings by an average of \$7,200 annually.
- Licensees and certificate holders earn 27% more than those with a BA alone.
- State and local governments reap a 16% return on every dollar they invest in community colleges due to the increased earnings of community college graduates.
- Community colleges are traditionally the most affordable schools, with an average price tag of \$2,544 a year compared to \$7,020 for four-year public research institutions.
- Community colleges rely on state and local appropriations for about 60 percent of their funding to keep them intentionally less expensive for students.

Delivering Safe and Healthy Communities

- 59% of new nurses and the majority of other new health-care workers are educated at community colleges.
- Close to 80% of firefighters, law enforcement officers, and EMTs are credentialed at community colleges.
- Community colleges offer training in these medical fields: dental hygiene, nutrition, emergency medical services, health information management, clinical laboratory sciences and medical technology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, radiologic technology, nuclear medical technology, rehabilitation counseling, respiratory therapy, speech-language pathology, and audiology.

“Community colleges have made a significant contribution to expanding educational opportunities. Attendance at one of these institutions is associated with higher wages, even if a degree is not completed. Evidence suggests that each year of credit at a community college is worth almost as much, in terms of increased earnings potential, as a year at a four-year college.”

– BEN S. BERNANKE
CHAIRMAN OF THE
FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
SEPTEMBER 2007

“In many respects, community colleges are the epicenter of the U.S. post-high school education and training system... they can be nimble allies of employers and other workforce partners in providing customized training that is specific to the needs of a particular employer or industry.”

– PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL
OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS
JULY 2009



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Delivering a Diverse Workforce

- More than 12 million Americans are enrolled in community colleges.
- 52% of all Native American undergrads are enrolled in community colleges.
- 53% of all Hispanic undergrads are enrolled in community colleges – a figure that is expected to increase.
- 45% of all Asian/Pacific Islander undergrads attend community colleges.
- 45% of all African American undergrads are enrolled in community colleges – a figure that is expected to increase.
- Half of college-going adults who are 50 or older are enrolled in community colleges, compared with just 33 percent of adults aged 25 and younger.
- 42% of first-generation college students attend community colleges.

Delivering a Competitive Advantage

- Community colleges enroll 43% of all American undergraduates in public institutions.
- Community colleges award about 820,000 associate degrees or certificates annually.
- Teacher prep: researchers estimate that 20% to 40% of the nation's teachers began their education at community colleges.
- 44% of students who receive baccalaureates or master's degrees in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) fields attended a community college at some point in their careers.

“These two-year public institutions are present in most every U.S. community, enrolling 45 percent of the nation's college student population, and even higher shares of students of color and those from lower-income backgrounds. The education and training they provide help to fill important labor market needs, including some in the economy's fastest-growing occupations.”

– BROOKINGS INSTITUTION
MAY 2009

“The community college is one of our best economic development tools in that it can tailor training programs to suit the needs of industry. It provides additional education to working adults in the community or those attempting to gain employment skills.”

– IDAHO SENATOR JOHN GOEDDE
2009



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