Diverse Populations at America’s Community Colleges

Students With Disabilities

With their dual mission of access and student success, our nation’s community colleges provide high-quality postsecondary education for a very diverse group of students. Included in this diverse population are those with disabilities. In 2013, the American Association of Community Colleges reported that students with disabilities comprised 12% of national community college enrollments.

In addition to complying with the requirements of Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, community colleges across the country are implementing innovative programs to support the success of students with disabilities. The following is a list of selected practices and resources.

Examples

- College of Southern Maryland
  http://www.csmd.edu/StudentSuccess/ADA/
- Harper College, Illinois
- Landmark College, Vermont (Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficit Disorders)
  http://www.landmark.edu/
- Maricopa Community Colleges, Arizona
- National Technical Institute for the Deaf, New York
  http://www.ntid.rit.edu/

Resources for Community Colleges

- ADA.gov (Provides technical assistance for individuals with disabilities)
  http://www.ada.gov
- AHEAD (Association on Higher Education and Disability)
  http://www.ahead.org
  http://1.usa.gov/1bviAJ1
- Transition of Students with Disabilities to Postsecondary Education
  http://1.usa.gov/1cpp7Sj
- The Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities (WRP)
  (U.S. Department of Labor)
  http://1.usa.gov/171ypp1

Quick Stats

- 12% of national community college enrollments are students with disabilities
- Community colleges enrolled one-half (1.3 million) of the 2.6 million students with disabilities in 2011-2012
- 18.6% of individuals with disabilities are employed (Bureau of Labor, 2010 Statistics)

Source: NCES. (2014). 2011-12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12) [AACC analysis].

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