Completing to Compete

At the age of 15, Vennette Perez put her education on hold to have her first child. Her son graduated from Community’s Norwich Community College in 2010, and in 2011, Perez did the same. The mother of two, who lost her home during the recession, was the class speaker at commencement, “an opportunity that I never even dreamed would happen to me,” Perez said. College “opened doors for me to pursue my dreams of becoming a nurse,” Koinange said. Other way I could have pursued my dream of becoming a nurse, she said. Perez was able to open her own business, Kiddie Kitchen, and hopes to someday have her own cooking show on TV.

Retraining for Cutting-Edge Careers

Taylor Coleman is thrilled about his job in the wind technology industry after earning an associate degree from Mesalands Community College in New Mexico. He is earning $21 an hour, more than in his previous career as a funeral home director, and enjoys perks such as the use of a pick-up truck, laptop, and credit card as he travels the country as a sales engineer.

Finding Flexibility and Options

Alice Keinage, a technical sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, was able to keep up with her nursing studies at the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) in Maryland, even while deployed to Afghanistan in 2010. “There’s no way I would have been able to do it otherwise,” said Keinage, 35, who has two school-age children. Finding Flexibility and Options.

Keeping College Affordable

Completing community college has been a long, hard struggle for Delores Barber, and she couldn’t have done it without a Pell Grant. Barber, who lost her home during the recession, was the class speaker at commencement, “an opportunity that I never even dreamed would happen to me,” Barber said. College “opened doors for me to pursue my dreams of becoming a nurse,” Keinage said. Other way I could have pursued my dream of becoming a nurse, she said.

Paving the Way for Future Leaders

Lawrence Rossie was a doors of student services when he joined the inaugural class of AACC’s Future Leaders Institute (FLI). He wanted to take his career to the next level and enhance his skills and knowledge. Less than two years after attending FLI, Rossie became president of James Sprunt Community College in North Carolina. FLI, he said, “addressed a lot of issues that future leaders would need to be effective in their positions.” FLI is just one of the AACC programs working to close the community college leadership gap.

Student Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18–24</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25–34</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35–44</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Hispanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45–54</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Native American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55–64</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Other/unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other significant demographics:

- First generation to attend college—42%
- Single parents—15%
- Non-U.S. citizens—4%
- Veterans—4%
- Students with disabilities—12%

Student Financial Aid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of aid received</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pell Grants</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal loans</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State aid</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus-based aid</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private gifts</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total aid</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average Annual Tuition and Fees

Community colleges (public, in district): $2,963
Noncredit: $3,818
Credit: $3,818
Total: $6,781

President Keinage is a medical student at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Keinage was able to complete her clinical work before leaving for Bagram Airfield because of the associate degree in culture, science, and technology/allied health. “I struggled a lot,” Keinage said. “I’ve had to make some tough choices,” like cutting back on groceries and turning off the air conditioner in her apartment during a heat wave. But when asked if she considered dropping out of college, she said “that is not an option.”
Developing future leaders

Network and stay on top of the latest innovations with AACC’s professional development opportunities:

- Annual Convention
- Future Leaders Institute and Future Presidents Institute
- Presidents Academy: New CEO Institute and Summer Institute
- Washington Institute
- Workforce Development Institute

For an expanded list of events, visit www.aacc.nche.edu and click on News and Events.

Helping colleges put America back to work

Community colleges are training and retraining Americans to advance their skills or pursue new careers through initiatives such as:

- Phi 50 Initiative
- SEED Center
- Health Professions Education Center
- Advanced Technological Education (through National Science Foundation)
- Center for Workforce and Economic Development

Join the conversation

@Comm_College
www.Facebook.com/CommCollege

Search for American Association of Community Colleges

Fighting for community colleges in Washington, DC

Take action. Access news and alerts, “Contact Congress,” an advocacy toolkit, and more resources on AACC’s website. AACC’s current legislative priorities include preserving the Pell Grant maximum, providing better support for student veterans, adequately funding career and technical education programs and other higher education programs, reauthorizing the Workforce Investment Act, and extending the American College Promise. To find out more, visit the Advocacy page on AACC’s website. For an expanded list of events, visit www.aacc.nche.edu and click on News and Events.

About AACC

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) is the primary advocacy organization for the nation’s community colleges, representing nearly 1,200 two-year, associate-degree-granting institutions and more than 13 million students. Founded in 1920, AACC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit association. AACC is governed by a 32-member board of directors, elected for staggered terms. Twenty-six members are elected by the CEOs of AACC member institutions. The remaining six members are elected by the board and include three at-large members and three public members representing constituencies such as boards of trustees, business, and government.

AACC Leadership

Gawain S. Bisharat
President and CEO

By the Numbers

- American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)
- 1,200 two-year, associate-degree-granting institutions
- Nearly 13 million students
- Founded in 1920
- A 501(c)(3) nonprofit association
- AACC is governed by a 32-member board of directors, elected for staggered terms
- Twenty-six members are elected by the CEOs of AACC member institutions
- The remaining six members are elected by the board and include three at-large members and three public members representing constituencies such as boards of trustees, business, and government

Contact AACC

For a complete directory of departments and staff, go to www.aacc.nche.edu. Click on “About AACC.”

Amirah Ammirato
Director of Communications
West Virginia University at Parkersburg

AACC Advances Community Colleges

About Community Colleges

At least 57% of job openings in the United States between 2006 and 2016 will require some postsecondary education.

-Bureau of Labor Statistics

In the coming years, jobs requiring at least an associate degree are projected to grow twice as fast as jobs requiring no college experience . . . We will not fill these jobs—nor keep these jobs on our shores—without the training offered by community colleges.

—President Obama

American community colleges are the nation’s overlooked asset. As the United States confronts the challenges of globalization, two-year institutions are indispensable to the American future. They are the Ellis Island of American higher education, the crossroads at which K-12 education meets colleges and universities, and the institutions that give many students the tools to navigate the modern world.

—The College Board

AACC 2012 Operating Budget: $18.6 million

Revenue

Expenditures

College colorectal or degree with value in the workplace is the cornerstone of community colleges. AACC supports members with grants and promising practices through a range of policy initiatives and innovative programs, such as:

- Voluntary Framework of Accountability
- Achieving the Dream
- Service Learning
- Minority Male Student Success
- College Completion Challenge: A Call to Action

Learn more at www.aacc.nche.edu/advocacy.

Advancing the completion agenda

Earning a college credential or degree with value in the workplace is the cornerstone of community colleges. AACC supports members with grants and promising practices through a range of policy initiatives and innovative programs, such as:

- Voluntary Framework of Accountability
- Achieving the Dream
- Service Learning
- Minority Male Student Success
- College Completion Challenge: A Call to Action

Learn more at www.aacc.nche.edu/resources/aaccprograms.

Nearly half of all U.S. undergraduates attend community college

The term college bound once may have conjured only images of students heading to 4-year institutions with ivy-covered buildings. That image has changed, though. Community colleges are attracting people from all backgrounds, with all skill levels. With their reputations for accessibility, affordability, and diversity of programs and services, it’s no wonder community colleges are enrolling nearly half of all U.S. undergraduates.

The gateway to opportunity

Community colleges, often referred to as “America’s Community College,” serve a wide array of needs for a wide array of students. The cornerstone of the community college mission is open access, which means that the doors are open to anyone and everyone who seeks higher education. The reasons are as diverse as the students who arrive at the open door. For some, community college is a transfer point to further education; for others, it’s a final destination to employment or personal enrichment. The advantages of attending community colleges are many.

Keeping you informed

AACC’s print and electronic publications keep you on top of the constantly evolving community college environment.

www.aacc.nche.edu AACC’s website is a rich resource for data, news, professional development, job listings, and more.

Community College Journal is a trusted resource for trends, best practices, and analysis. Offered in print and as a digital magazine.

CommunityCollegeTimes.com
For your daily community college and higher education news, there’s no better resource. And it’s FREE!

Accessibility

Open enrollment means that students can enroll at any time. Underprepared students will find developmental courses to prepare them for college-level work. Fact: Tuition fees at 41% of public community colleges can earn a degree online entirely.

Affordability

Many students take advantage of the lower cost to finish the first 2 years of course work toward a bachelor’s degree before transferring. The lower cost provides a gateway to higher education and student success—one course may not afford it. Fact: Tuition and fees are about 64% lower on average than those of 4-year universities.

Career preparation

Students not intending to earn a bachelor’s degree will find programs that provide the knowledge and skills in demand in a wide range of professional fields. Fact: Community colleges are the premiere educator of America’s new workers and the majority of other new health-care workers, 80% of firefighters, law enforcement officers, and EMTs are credentialed at community colleges.

www.nche.edu
and click on News and Events.

For an expanded list of events, visit www.aacc.nche.edu/publications. Available in print and as a digital magazine. Offered in monthly and annual subscriptions.

Innovative programs, such as Workforce Investment Act, and extending the American College Promise, will find programs that provide the knowledge and skills in demand in a wide range of professional fields. Fact: Community colleges are the premiere educator of America’s new workers and the majority of other new health-care workers, 80% of firefighters, law enforcement officers, and EMTs are credentialed at community colleges.

Fact: Tuition and fees are about 64% lower on average than those of 4-year universities. America’s overlooked asset. As the United States confronts the challenges of globalization, two-year institutions are indispensable to the American future. They are the Ellis Island of American higher education, the crossroads at which K-12 education meets colleges and universities, and the institutions that give many students the tools to navigate the modern world. —The College Board

AACC’s current legislative priorities include preserving the Pell Grant maximum, providing better support for student veterans, adequately funding career and technical education programs and other higher education programs, reauthorizing the Workforce Investment Act, and extending the American College Promise.