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Women Community College Presidents



Summary

Over 36.6 percent of community college presidents are women (Philippe, 2023).

The data in this infographic provide an overall summary of the key statistics on the role, background, application process, transitioning, and future movement of women community college presidents using data from the American Council on Education's American College President Study (Melidona et al., 2023).

Women community college presidents



Men community college presidents



As of July 2022, community college presidents held their current role for an average of

5.3 years

5.7 years

The average age of community college presidents was:

58.5 years

57.8 years

Women community college presidents indicated that entrepreneurial ventures, fundraising, technology planning, as well as risk and crisis management, were their top professional training and development areas.

39%

Entrepreneurial Ventures

36%

Fundraising

29%

Crisis Management

29%

Risk Management

29%

Technology Planning

Women community college presidents (**24 percent**) were more likely to seek negotiation advice from personal attorneys than men community college presidents (**17 percent**).

24%

(Of all the sources of advice, the percentage point difference between men and women was the largest on this data point).

17%

Women community college presidents (**62 percent**) were less likely to indicate the search process gave them a realistic assessment of current challenges facing their institution than men community college presidents (**74 percent**).

62%

(Percent indicates the share of presidents who said the search process gave them a realistic assessment of the challenges facing their institution).

74%

Women community college presidents indicated they felt less supported by their governing board or agency, as compared to their male peers. More than two-thirds (**69 percent**) of women presidents indicated they felt "very supported" by their governing board or agency, compared to **81 percent** of men.

69%

81%

64%

Almost two-thirds (**64 percent**) of community college women presidents agreed that they struggled to find people who understand the experiences of being a president.

On average, women community college presidents aspired, applied, and were appointed to their presidency roles later than their male counterparts.

WOMEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTS:

Aspired to a presidency role at age:

44.1 years

Applied to a presidency role at age:

49.5 years

Appointed to first presidency at age:

51.0 years

MEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTS:

Aspired to a presidency role at age:

41.5 years

Applied to a presidency role at age:

47.5 years

Appointed to first presidency at age:

49.4 years

53%

53 percent of women community college presidents plan to step down in the next five years.

Within the next year or two: **29%**

3-5 years from now: **24%**

The most popular answers for women community college presidents regarding what they are considering when they leave their current presidencies:

34%

Over one-third (34 percent) of women community college presidents indicated they would retire and hold no other position.

21%

A little over one in five (21 percent) women community college presidents are considering a move to another college, university, or system presidency.

Additional Data Points

Negotiation Advice:

- Women community college presidents reported that general higher education colleagues (**41 percent**) were their top source of negotiation advice for their current presidency.

Well-Being:

- Women community college presidents (**89 percent**) indicated at higher levels than their male peers (**83 percent**) that they use strategies to help them reenergize (e.g. exercise, meditation, yoga, nutrition).

Pathways and Past Positions:

- Women community college presidents (**48 percent**) were more likely than men community college presidents (**42 percent**) to come from a faculty or academic background.

Professional Development:

- A little over two-thirds (**68 percent**) of women community college presidents indicated participation in a leadership development program before they became a campus or system president (compared to **60 percent** of men).
- AACCC's Future Presidents Institute was the leadership program that had the highest participation of women community college presidents at **14 percent**, contrasted with **11 percent** of men reporting participation.

COVID-19:

- **Eight out of 10** women community college presidents reported the COVID-19 pandemic had not affected the timing of when they plan to step down from their current presidential position.

Other Demographics

- Women community college presidents identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual (**7 percent**) at a slightly lower rate than men community college presidents (**10 percent**).
- Women community college presidents were almost twice as likely to have their spouses be fully retired (**28 percent**) than their male counterparts (**15 percent**).

CITATION:

Analysis conducted by Austin Freeman. 2024. Women Community College Presidents. Washington, DC: American Association of Community Colleges.

REFERENCES:

Melidona, Danielle, et al. 2023. The American College President: 2023 Edition. Washington, DC: American Council on Education

Phillippe, K. (2023, March 13). Datapoints: Women CEOs at Community Colleges Community College Daily - American Association of Community Colleges. Accessed at: [https://www.ccdaily.com/2023/03/datapoints-women-ceos-at-community-colleges/#:~:text=Well%20over%20one%2Dthird%20\(36.6,community%20college%20presidents%20are%20women.](https://www.ccdaily.com/2023/03/datapoints-women-ceos-at-community-colleges/#:~:text=Well%20over%20one%2Dthird%20(36.6,community%20college%20presidents%20are%20women.)



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