

Data and Advocacy Workshop: Data Storytelling Example

Title: "Transforming Lives and Communities: The Power of Community College Education"

Introduction: Meet Sarah, a determined student from a small town who faced numerous challenges on her path to success. Her journey through community college not only transformed her life but also had a profound impact on economic mobility and community vibrancy.

Background: In our region, access to quality higher education has been a pressing issue. Many students like Sarah often lack the resources and opportunities to pursue traditional four-year degrees. Let's look at the data:

- **Data Point 1:** Only 25% of high school graduates in our community immediately enroll in a four-year college.
- **Data Point 2:** The cost of tuition at four-year institutions has been steadily rising, placing higher education out of reach for many.

Sarah's Story:

- **Data Point 3:** Sarah grew up in a low-income family and faced financial constraints that made attending a four-year university difficult.
- **Data Point 4:** However, Sarah's local community college, Johnson County Community College (JCCC), offered affordable tuition and flexible scheduling options.

The Turning Point:

- **Data Point 5:** At JCCC, Sarah joined a program aimed at increasing degree completion rates for students like her.
- **Data Point 6:** With personalized support and guidance, Sarah's academic performance improved significantly.

Achieving Success:

- **Data Point 7:** Sarah graduated from JCCC with an associate's degree in Business Administration.

- **Data Point 8:** She transitioned to a four-year university with a full scholarship, taking advantage of articulation agreements between JCCC and regional universities.

Economic Mobility:

- **Data Point 9:** Sarah's story is one of upward economic mobility. By pursuing higher education at JCCC, she increased her earning potential and contributed to her family's financial stability.
- **Data Point 10:** Studies show that for every dollar invested in community college education, students can expect to earn significantly more over their lifetime, benefiting not only themselves but also their communities.

Community Vibrancy:

- **Data Point 11:** JCCC plays a vital role in our community's vibrancy. It provides skilled graduates to meet the workforce demands of local businesses, driving economic growth.
- **Data Point 12:** Community college graduates are more likely to stay in the region, contributing to local communities as employees, entrepreneurs, and engaged citizens.

Conclusion: Sarah's journey, supported by the community college system, exemplifies the transformative power of accessible higher education. By analyzing the data, we see that community colleges are pivotal in providing opportunities for students who may face barriers to traditional universities. This not only elevates individuals but also enhances economic mobility and fosters community vibrancy.

Call to Action: Let's continue to support and invest in our local community colleges to ensure that more students like Sarah have the opportunity to pursue their dreams, enhance economic mobility, and contribute to the vibrancy of our communities. Together, we can create a brighter future for all.