



COMMUNITY COLLEGES: THE FUTURE OF TEXAS TODAY

We are the Largest Sector of Higher Education in Texas

- More than 720,000 students attend community college in Texas
- 55% of the students in Texas public higher education attend a community college
- Enrollment has increased 67% since Fall 2000; adding more than 290,000 new students
- In the past two years community colleges have grown by 20%

We Look Like Texas

- Enrollment: 46% Anglo, 32.4% Hispanic, 13.9% African-American, 7.4% Other
- 73.5% of the freshmen and sophomores in Texas public higher education enroll in community colleges
- 75% of minority freshmen and sophomores in Texas public higher education attend a community college

We are Successful in Graduating and Transferring Students

- The total number of degrees and certificates awarded has increased 49% since 2000 – now totaling over 55,000 annually
- The total number of transfer students from community colleges to universities has increased 75 % since 2000 – now totaling nearly 35,000 annually
- Produce 62% of all registered nurses and 84% of all first responders

We are the Best Economic Value for the State

- Lower cost to the state than four-year institutions for providing freshman, sophomore, and Early College Start experiences
- Lowest cost provider of higher education and training
- Less expensive for the State to fund community colleges than the costs of similar programs/services at four-year institutions

We Help Drive the State's Economy

- Fastest, best way to build a larger stronger middle class
- Most attuned to the needs of business, industry and labor markets
- Primary provider of State's workforce
- Help to reduce the costs of social services to the state

We are the Best Bargain for Students and Families

- Going to a community college just makes financial sense
- Average cost to attend a university full-time for a semester: \$3600
- Average cost to attend a community college full-time for a semester: \$740





2011 Legislative Priorities: 82nd Legislature



Appropriations

The 82nd Legislature should support community colleges by investing sufficient base funding in the amount of \$2.286 billion. This funding consists of \$1.844 billion (base formula amount from the last state budget) and \$442 million for the unprecedented growth in student enrollment at community colleges over the past two years. Community colleges in Texas are playing an essential role as the state struggles to meet growing educational demand. For these institutions to remain affordable and accessible the state must provide sufficient base funding including the extraordinary increase in enrollments at community colleges.



Employee Health Insurance

The 82nd Legislature should continue its historical commitment of funding community college group healthcare insurance based on employee eligibility. The critical agreement reached last session between the Legislature, the Governor's Office, and Community Colleges must be preserved in the General Appropriations Act. The certainty this covenant provides allows community colleges to hire and retain talented and dedicated faculty and staff to serve the growing number of Texans seeking educational opportunities.