

2013

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
**COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
FACT SHEET**



*Image provided courtesy of Northwestern Michigan College*

**Building a Nation of Learners  
by Advancing America's  
Community Colleges**



# AACC Advances Community Colleges

## AACC Leadership Suite

The AACC Leadership Suite consists of programs designed to provide emerging and seasoned leaders with professional development and renewal opportunities.

- John E. Roueche Future Leaders Institute
- Future Presidents Institute
- Thriving in the Community College Presidency
- Presidents Academy Summer Institute
- Webinars on Trends and Issues in Leadership

Read more at [www.aacc.nche.edu/leadershipsuite](http://www.aacc.nche.edu/leadershipsuite).

## Fighting for community colleges in Washington, DC

Take action. Access news and alerts, webinars, "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 Opportunity Tax Credit.

Read more at [www.aacc.nche.edu/advocacy](http://www.aacc.nche.edu/advocacy).

## Supporting student success

Developing services, programs, and policies that help more students succeed is central to AACC's mission. Members benefit from information about new initiatives and opportunities, grants, information about promising practices, and innovative programs, such as these:

- Voluntary Framework of Accountability
- 21st-Century Initiative on the Future of Community Colleges
- Virtual Career Network
- Achieving the Dream

Read more at [www.aacc.nche.edu/resources/aaccprograms](http://www.aacc.nche.edu/resources/aaccprograms).

## Helping colleges put America back to work

Community colleges are economic engines that help Americans to advance their skills or pursue new careers through AACC-sponsored initiatives such as

- Plus 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](http://www.Facebook.com/CommCollege)

Search for American Association of Community Colleges

## Keeping you informed

AACC's print and electronic publications keep you informed and engaged.

[www.AACC.nche.edu](http://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 digital formats. [www.aacc.nche.edu/publications](http://www.aacc.nche.edu/publications).

**CommunityCollegeTimes.com**

For your daily, timely community college news, there's no better source.

And it's FREE!



# About Community Colleges

## 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. Community colleges attract 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 enroll nearly half of all U.S. undergraduates.

## The gateway to opportunity

Community colleges, often referred to as "Democracy's Colleges," serve a wide array of needs for a diverse student population. The cornerstone of the community college mission is open access: The doors are open to anyone and everyone who seeks higher education. 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 college are many.

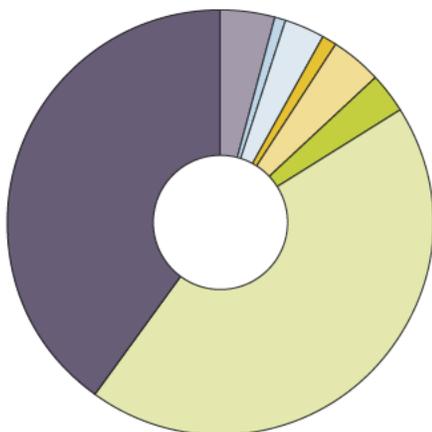
**Accessibility.** Open enrollment means that students can enroll at any time. Underprepared students will find developmental courses to prepare them for college-level work. Fact: Students at 41% of public community colleges can earn a degree entirely online.

**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 to students who otherwise could not afford it. Fact: Tuition and fees are about 64% lower on average than those of 4-year universities.

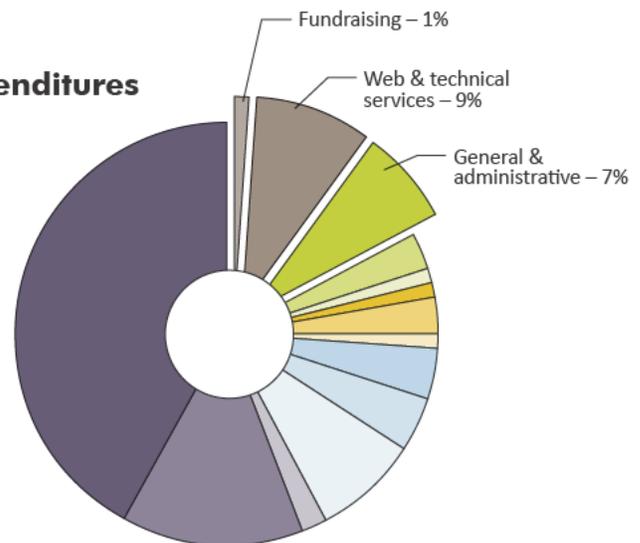
**Career preparation.** Students not intending to earn a bachelor's degree will find programs that provide the knowledge and skills in demand in a wide range of professional fields. Fact: Community colleges educate 59% of new nurses and the majority of other new health-care workers; 80% of firefighters, law enforcement officers, and EMTs are credentialed at community colleges.

## AACC's 2013 Operating Budget: \$16.5 million

### Revenue



### Expenditures



- Grants & contracts – 40%
- Membership – 44%
- International services – 3%
- Publications – 4%
- Convention (net) – 1%
- Seminars & workshops – 3%
- Investment income – 1%
- Other revenue – 4%

- Grants & contracts – 42%
- Policy development & advocacy – 14%
- Research – 2%
- Publications – 8%
- International Services – 4%
- Communications & public relations – 4%
- Member support services – 1%
- Workforce & economic development – 3%
- Innovative Learning & Student Success – 1%
- Diversity & inclusion – 1%
- Leadership development – 3%

## Stories of Student Success

### Helping Single Mothers Succeed



Image provided courtesy of Harper College

Catherine Clarke had been a homemaker for 14 years, raising her children, before she left her husband due to domestic violence. She enrolled at Harper College (Illinois) and took full advantage of the Rita and John Canning Women's Program. The program provides educational, career, and personal support to single parents,

displaced homemakers, and nontraditional career seekers. Clarke found "a career path that fit my passion," got financial help, and gained back some of her confidence. She graduated with a 4.0 GPA and is now a junior at Elmhurst College, with a goal of earning a master's degree in counseling.

### Veterans Center Makes a Difference



Photo credit : Anikka Ayala-Rogers, Lee College

Since Lee College opened its veterans center in 2011, student veteran retention rates have increased 10%, completion rates have increased 10%, and drops have decreased 55%. The number of Lee College student veterans applying for and securing employment with area industry is also increasing. "What many people don't

recognize about veterans, is their need to contribute," said a veterans specialist at the college. "By giving them a home on campus, we're helping bring them back into civilian life where they will make a difference."

### EMT Students Learn to Work Under Fire



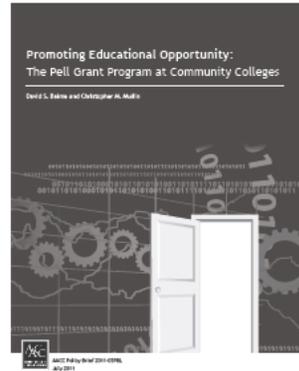
Photo credit: Rob Vanya, San Jacinto College marketing department

Crawling on your belly and trying to apply a tourniquet to a wounded person while "bullets" fly by is not your typical classroom exercise. This simulation at a paintball range gave emergency medical technology (EMT) students at San Jacinto College in Texas an idea of what it is like to provide medical care

under fire. The exercise was designed to give students a sample of specialty areas in EMT and to foster awareness and team-building. "I was already interested in tactical EMT work,

but after the paintball range project, I made up my mind that this is the field I am going to pursue," said one EMT student.

## Advocacy on Your Behalf



### Pell Grants = Opportunity

In 2011–2012, \$11.2 billion in Pell grants served more than 3.3 million community college students. The Pell Grant program remains essential to providing access to higher education for low-income students, and advocating to protect the program remains one of AACC's highest priorities. AACC provides information and assistance to

colleges through its Pell Grant Action Center online at [www.aacc.nche.edu/advocacy/pellaction](http://www.aacc.nche.edu/advocacy/pellaction). Download this AACC policy brief at [www.aacc.nche.edu/briefs](http://www.aacc.nche.edu/briefs)

### Building Business Alliances



Since 2006, Grainger and the AACC have worked together to provide more students access to skilled trades jobs and technical education. Grainger has contributed more than \$1.5 million in support of technical education in the form of scholarships,

toolkits, technical education program support, and heightening awareness. Since 2010, Grainger has targeted one third of its Tools for Tomorrow scholarships specifically for veterans in recognition of their service to our country.

### Preparing Future Leaders



About 75% of community college CEOs participating in an AACC survey plan to retire within the next 10 years, with another 15% eyeing retirement in 11–15 years. To stem the oncoming leadership gap, AACC's Leadership Suite offers professional development

opportunities for community college leaders at multiple stages. AACC's CEO compensation brief is available online at [www.aacc.nche.edu/briefs](http://www.aacc.nche.edu/briefs).

## 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 3-year 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



**Walter G. Bumphus**  
President and CEO

## 2012–2013 Board Chair



**Marie Foster Gnage**  
President  
West Virginia University at Parkersburg

## 2013–2014 Board Chair-Elect



**Jane A. Karas**  
President  
Flathead Valley Community College, MT

## Contact AACC

For a complete directory of departments and staff, go to [www.ache.nche.edu](http://www.ache.nche.edu). Click on "About AACC."

### American Association of Community Colleges

One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202-728-0200

Fax: 202-223-9093



*Image provided courtesy of Montana State University - Great Falls*

## Why Community College? Why Now?

“For more and more people, community colleges are the way to the future. They’re giving real opportunity to students who otherwise wouldn’t have it. They’re giving hope to families who thought the American Dream was slipping away. They are equipping Americans with the skills and expertise that are relevant to the emerging jobs of the future. They’re opening doors for the middle class at a time when the middle class has seen so many doors close to them.”

— Jill Biden, Second Lady and a community college professor

“The “relentless forces” of the economy and technology “mean that postsecondary education is necessary for a middle-class life, and that for many Americans their long-term prospects depend on their success at community colleges.”

— Anthony Carnevale, Center on Education and the Workforce, Georgetown University

“Community colleges are for many young people their first entry into higher education, a kind of stair-step approach that allows them to see that they can achieve their dreams and realize that a great education is not out of reach.”

— Ralph de la Vega, President and CEO, AT&T Mobility (alumnus of Miami Dade College, FL)