

American Community Colleges: Accessible, Affordable and Inclusive

2008 Global Summit on Education:
Inclusive Practices for Students with
Disabilities

Pat Stanley
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Community Colleges,
Office of Vocational and Adult
Education
U.S. Department of Education

The mission of community colleges is to meet the education and training needs of their communities and to serve as centers for cultural and social opportunities.

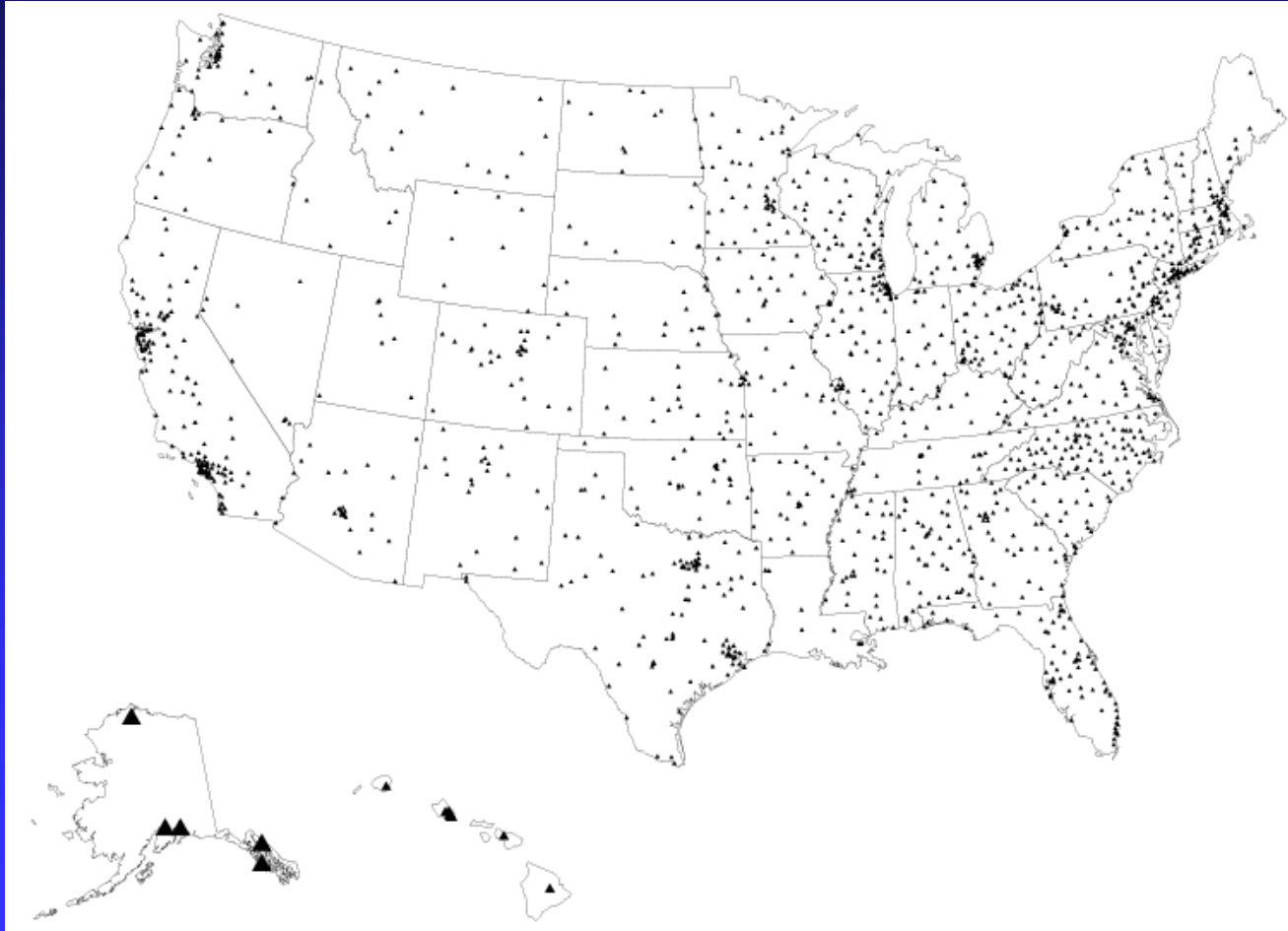
The community college mission is shaped by core values.

- Accessibility
- Affordability
- Adaptability
- Accountability

A brief history

- The origins of the community college include Joliet Junior College, which was founded in 1901 to prepare students to transfer to universities.
- The 1920s and 1930s saw the emergence of occupational programs.
- The 1960s marked the expansion of the scope of community colleges to address the educational, economic and social needs of their communities.

Community Colleges in the U.S.



✓ *Nearly
1200
community
colleges*

✓ *Community
colleges enroll
46% of all U.S.
undergraduate
students*

✓ *Community
colleges enroll
more than 11
million students*

Source: American Association of Community Colleges, 2008.

Community colleges are multidimensional.

- Academic programs lead to transfer opportunities, degrees, and certificates.
- Workforce development programs respond to local economic and job training needs.
- Lifelong learning opportunities enable adults to update their skills, broaden their knowledge, and pursue their interests.

Community colleges make up a large sector of the U.S. higher education system.

- Community colleges enroll approximately 11.5 million students
 - 6.5 million enrolled for credit
 - 5 million in noncredit programs
- 46 percent of U.S. undergraduates begin their studies at community colleges.
- Community colleges enroll a larger percentage of students with disabilities than four-year colleges and universities.

Sources: American Association of Community Colleges, 2008, and National Center for Education Statistics, 2008.

Community college students are diverse.

- 35 percent minority
- Average age of 29
- 39 percent first-generation college students
- 17 percent single parents
- 8 percent non-US citizens

Source: American Association of Community Colleges, Fast Facts, 2008.

Community colleges are affordable.

Average annual tuition and fees:

- Community colleges (public): \$ 2,361
- Four-year colleges (public): \$6,185

Source: American Association of Community Colleges, Fast Facts, 2008.

Community colleges are a bridge to economic opportunity

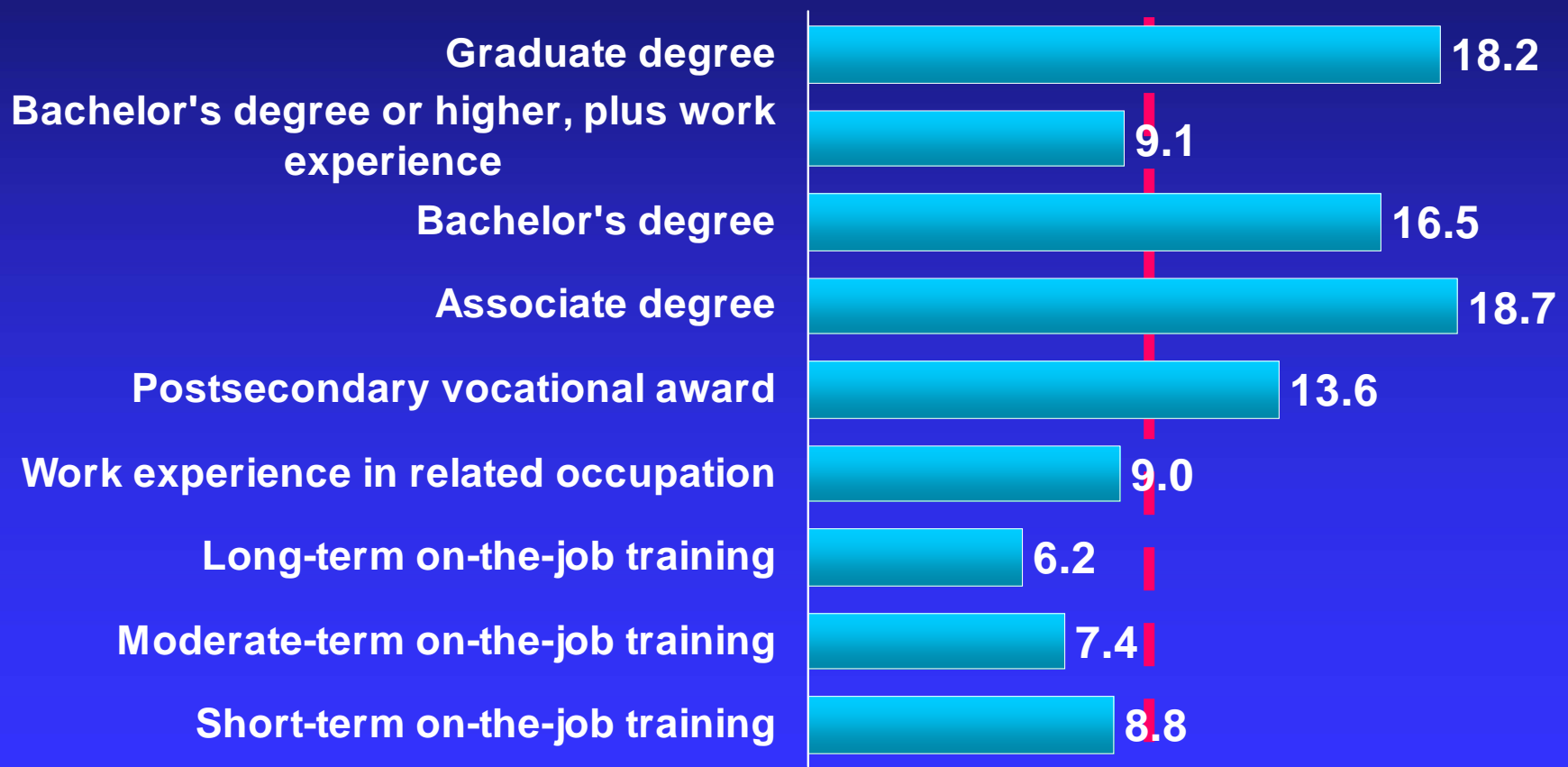
The average expected lifetime earnings for a graduate with an associate degree are \$1.6 million, about \$.4 million more than those of a high school graduate.

Source: American Association of Community Colleges, Fast Facts, 2008.

**Community colleges are a gateway
to high-demand, high-skill jobs in
today's economy.**

Fastest-Growing Jobs Require Some Education Beyond High School

(Percent change, projected 2006-16)



Average, all occupations=10%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008.

Community colleges provide access to postsecondary education to all individuals who aspire to further education and training.

- Located in the community
- Open admissions
- Flexible schedules and part-time degree options
- Distance learning
- Facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities

What is student success? There are many measures.

- Persistence and goal attainment (completion of degree or certificate)
- Transfer to four-year institution
- Job placement
- Community engagement and civic participation

Extensive support services promote inclusion and student success!

- Academic and personal counseling
- Career guidance and job placement services
- Tutoring
- Accommodations for students with disabilities
 - Assistive technology
 - Interpretation
 - Train faculty on instructional strategies
- Childcare
- Extracurricular programs, clubs and community service

A commitment to teaching and learning contributes to student success!

- Community colleges offer developmental education for students who need to improve their math or literacy skills to be ready for college-level course work.
- Classes are taught by faculty-not teaching assistants-with advanced degrees in their field.

A commitment to teaching and learning contributes to student success!

- Community colleges employ adjunct faculty who bring the latest innovations and professional experience to the classroom.
- Small class sizes provide more opportunity for student participation and personalization.

A focus on transitions leads to student success!

- Dual-enrollment options provide high school students with early exposure to college life and expectations.
- Career pathways offer coherent sequences of rigorous academic and technical course work that are aligned with students' occupational goals and the expectations of colleges and employers.

A focus on transitions leads to student success!

- Articulation agreements ensure that credits transfer between community colleges and to four-year institutions.
- Community colleges partner with employers to train students for jobs in their communities.
- Increasingly community colleges are also offering baccalaureate degrees.

Resources from the Office of Vocational and Adult Education

- College and Career Transitions Initiative
<http://www.league.org/league/projects/CCTI/purpose>
- Career Pathways – 81 Plans of Study
<http://www.league.org/league/projects/CCTI/ccluster.cfm>
- Career Clusters
<http://www.careerclusters.org>
- Serving Community Colleges Web Page
<http://www.ed.gov/communitycolleges>

Any Questions?

Pat Stanley

Deputy Assistant Secretary

Pat.stanley@ed.gov

(202) 245-6683

www.ed.gov/communitycolleges