

Conversation Topics/Quick Facts for Student Advocacy Day 2019

- **Public 2-Year Institutions (Community College) Benefits**
 - Community colleges offer lower fees and have open-access policies which have broadened access to post-secondary education.
 - The open-access policies that community colleges offer benefit students who are facing barriers to entry, such as poor academic performance in high school, limited English language skills, or financial hardships.
 - Community colleges serve students who are seeking additional job skills, technical certifications, or other enrichment opportunities.

- **Students Seeking Formal Credentials**
 - Roughly 42% of all undergraduate students attend a community college.
 - Data suggests that 9 out of 10 students attending a community college intend to obtain a formal credential or transfer to a 4-year institution.
 - In a study conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics, 51% of students who intended to earn a degree or transfer to a 4-year institution fulfilled their goal within 6 years of their initial enrollment. Of the students considered to be “more traditional,” 63% obtained a formal credential.
 - Since two-thirds of community college students attend on a part-time basis, it takes them longer to complete their degrees.

- **Employment Outcomes**
 - The National Center for Education Statistics reported that 71% of community college students stated that their post-secondary enrollment led to increased job opportunities.
 - According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 63% of community college students who obtained a formal credential reported that their post-secondary education resulted in salary increases.
 - Community college students who earned a certificate, Associate’s Degree, or transferred to a 4-year institution were more likely to report positive employment outcomes.

- **Personal Stories**
 - Give your reason for attending a community college over a 4-year institution.
 - Examples: Cost, location, college readiness, undecided career path, health problems, etc.
 - Speak about the impact that community college has had on you.
 - Examples: Opportunity to be on ICCB-SAC, experience (Student Trustee), greater self confidence, etc.
 - Explain the benefits that you see of attending community college.
 - Examples: Smaller class sizes, deeper connection with peers, close relationships with professors, cost, preparedness for adult life, etc.

***All facts are from the National Center for Education Statistics**