



- Responsive • Affordable • Accessible
- Quality Learning Opportunities

Chairman Campbell and Members of the Committee,

Exciting things are happening at our colleges. I am pleased to be able to share these with you as well as the Community College vision and some potential roadblocks for Community Colleges.

First, Community Colleges focus on student success. Our vision is accessible, affordable, quality education.

* Kansas is ranked number 1 by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center in community college students transferring on to complete four-year degrees.

* Kansas Community Colleges work hard to ease the transition path from two year colleges to four year colleges.

* Community Colleges have reverse transfer agreements with all public universities in Kansas and with the Kansas Independent Colleges. This enables students to receive their associate degree with credits earned at the university. This is a great example of colleges and universities working together for the benefit of students.

* Community Colleges are award winning colleges. And although most Kansans may not wear shirts with our logos or mascots on them, State University.com rated all nineteen of Kansas Community Colleges in the top 500 community colleges in the country. Many of our colleges are Aspen, Top 50 Community Colleges in the USA, and The Best Schools winners.

*Community Colleges believe pathways should be clear between Community Colleges and universities and allow students to get through college with the least amount of debt, and accomplish their goals. Community Colleges have for several years advocated for not only transfer of courses, but transfer of programs.

KBOR has made a good start on course transfer with 66 hours that transfer among all public higher institutions. But Community Colleges believe every course should count - not just as electives, but toward students' majors. All higher education institutions should put students first rather than a university's enrollment numbers.

All Kansas higher education institutions are accredited by the same accrediting agency, so transfer of courses and programs can be done.

With dual admission and cross advising, pathways can be streamlined and students will experience less debt and reach their goals sooner. That is a scenario and a model in which students, taxpayers and the State all win.

The Role of Community Colleges.

- * Community Colleges are efficient providers of college courses for high school students, developmental (remedial) education, lifelong learning, transfer education and technical education.
- * Community Colleges transfer 3,200 students to public universities, 44% of the university transfer students, and in 2014, Community Colleges provided 19% of the transfer students to Kansas Independent Colleges.
- * Community Colleges provide 75% of all technical education in the state;
- * teach over 120,000 students a year;
- * in 2015, awarded over 4,600 short term certificates, over 2,400 certificates, and nearly 9,000 associate degrees;
- * over the last five years, taught more than 768,000 students.

Relationships are important.

- * Partnerships between Community Colleges and universities are what make sense.
- * With Community Colleges providing concurrent courses and SB 155 technical courses to high school students, with time at the Community College, and with clear pathways, those students who wish to do so could spend a year and a half with Community Colleges, transfer to the universities, and get a bachelors degree in three years. This model is already in place between KU and Johnson County and it can be done with others. It is done with mutual respect of what each institution brings to the success of student completion.
- * Community Colleges believe this is the efficient model - not a university aggressively trying to take over the community colleges' concurrent or technical courses in Community Colleges' home counties or service areas.

Who are Community College Students?

- * Community College students have often been the geographically bound students, the working young adult, the older student seeking skills to earn a better living for themselves and their families. They do not have the money or sometimes a car to make a long commute and they cannot relocate.
- * 91% of Community College students are Kansas residents;
- * nearly 60% are working while they are enrolled part time;
- * nearly 70% of Community College graduates are employed in Kansas two years after graduation.
- * Although more than half of Community College students are under 21, average age varies from college to college, and one college's students' average age is 27.
- * Community Colleges have many deserving low income students.
During 2014-2015, 53,313 Community College students received and brought to Kansas nearly \$186,000,000 in federal loans, grants, and work study.
- * Community Colleges have always helped students get their GEDs, and welcome students with open access. If students need remedial courses to be successful in regular college level courses, Community Colleges help them get there. Community Colleges nurture students and help them make progress toward their goals.
- * Community Colleges help get students back on track who did not do well in high school, help them learn to succeed at college, and then transfer on to the university. One such student went on to get her Pharmacy degree and become a licensed pharmacist. Another of these students graduated from the university and entered medical school and became a physician. There are many more such student success stories. It is important work that Community Colleges do.
- * Community Colleges also teach students who are the best and brightest, and our transfer students do well when they enter the university.

Community Colleges are Engines for Workforce Development.

- * Community Colleges taught over 8,000 students in technical education last year.
- * They partner with local business and industry and school districts, and the military. For example, one Community College has over 500 partnerships. This is because a Community College can quickly adapt and bring courses and programs when they are needed. Community Colleges have always provided the "just in time" courses and programs.
- * Community Colleges' skilled students move on to jobs that pay as much as \$65,000 in their first year.
- * Community Colleges create paths so a person can become a CNA and then a LPN and become an RN. Community Colleges help students break the cycle of poverty.

* These colleges are an incredible return on investment. The average tuition and fees at a Community College is \$2400 a year for a full time student.

Community Colleges are integral to their communities.

* Community Colleges are at the heart of their communities as employers, as educators, working with business and industry, allowing community organizations to use facilities when available, and having Phi Theta Kappa students and athletes actively involved in providing community service and giving back to the community.

Funding for Community Colleges.

* Community Colleges are a major provider of higher education. Overall, the State provides Community Colleges 20% of their funding. Out of a \$750M state higher education budget, Community Colleges receive \$112M.

* 35% of Community College funding comes from 18 counties, where the trustees are elected to be the governing bodies of these colleges.

* Community Colleges are receiving less state funding today than they did in FY 2009. Community Colleges do not believe that state funding they have had in their budgets since that time should be taken away from some Community Colleges and given to other colleges, as a current plan proposes to do.

* Community Colleges need a simple, transparent, equitable and predictable formula to provide state funding, because they efficiently provide the quality education that students need to reach their goals. That is true whether that is a course or two for their job, a skills based certificate, an associate degree or a transfer to a four year institution and then a graduate degree, Community Colleges meet student needs.

Our Community Colleges invite you to their campuses to experience what a great value they provide at an incredible bargain for the State.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to share the Community Colleges' vision and to have a voice.

I would be glad to stand for questions.

Submitted by Linda Fund, Executive Director
Kansas Association of Community College Trustees.