Shaping the Future: Changing Roles for Community Colleges

Everett Community College – Community Engagement Event
February 8, 2012
Community Colleges – An Historical Perspective

Growth through the Years:

• 1901 - oldest existing CC founded (Joliet, IL)
• 1930s - job training introduced in 1930s to ease unemployment
• 1948 - Truman administration proposed creation of network of public, community based colleges to serve local needs
• 1960s - CCs became national network

Learning Focus:

• Early focus on liberal arts studies
• Job training added post Depression
• Mid-20th century post-war pressure for more higher education options led to growth
• Open admission and low relative tuition support learning goals
• Credit and non-credit offerings
2010: 1177 Community Colleges with approximately 11.5 million students
US Community College System more than 100 years old

**Enrollment Data:**
- 6.5 million enrolled in for-credit programs; 5 million in non-credit programs
- 59% enrolled part-time; 41% enrolled full time
- 42% men; 58% women

**Age Distribution:**
- 47% less than 21 years of age
- 40% 22 to 39 years of age
- 13% 40 years of age or older

**Other Demographics:**
- 36% of students are ethnic minorities
- 42% are first generation to attend college
- CC students represent 44% of all undergraduates in the US
- CC students represent 43% of first-time freshmen
- Nearly 613,000 Associate Degrees awarded annually
- Nearly 313,000 Certificates awarded annually

Source: American Association of Community Colleges • www.aacc.nche.edu
Everett Community College founded 1941

Enrollment Data:
  Program Intent:
  • 34% academic
  • 32% vocational/technical
  • 18% personal interest
  • 16% basic skills
  59% part-time (7142 in Fall 2010); 41% full time (5050 in Fall 2010)
  43% men; 57% women

Age Distribution:
  41% less than 21 years of age
  38% 22 to 39 years of age
  21% 40 years of age or older

Other Demographics:
  25% of students are students of color
  40%+ are low income, first generation, or have a disability
  840 Associate Degrees awarded 2010-11
  1411 certificates awarded 2010-11
  765 GED
  167 Diplomas

Source: Everett Community College • http://www.everettcc.edu/
... the mission of the community college is to provide education for individuals, many of whom are adults, in its service region.

... most community college missions have three basic commitments:

1. to serve all segments of society through an open-access admissions policy that offers equal and fair treatment to all students,
2. a comprehensive educational program
3. to serve its community as a community-based institution of higher education providing lifelong learning
Employment, and Job Training

• 8.5% unemployment nationally
• 8.5% unemployment in Washington State
• 8.2% unemployment in Snohomish County

December 2011

Job Training

• Demand for new skills
• 85% of all new jobs require some level of post-secondary education
• Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that by 2015 we will need 400,000 new graduates every year in science, technology, engineering and math

Work

• Occupations with largest job growth in 2010:
  ✓ Registered nurses
  ✓ Computer support specialists
  ✓ Paralegals and legal assistants
  ✓ Dental hygienists
  ✓ Legal secretaries

• Occupations with fastest growth rate in 2010:
  ✓ Veterinary technicians and technologists
  ✓ Physical therapist assistants
  ✓ Dental hygienists
  ✓ Environmental science and protection
  ✓ Cardiovascular technologists & technicians
More than 1 million new and replacement nurses will be needed by 2016!

59% of new nurses are educated at community colleges!

Between 2006 and 2016, the US will need nearly 480,000 more K-12 teachers in public schools.

Nearly 50% of all teachers receive at least part of their education at community colleges.

Source: U.S. Bureau of labor Statistics
Work and Job Training Example
Chicago

- 13 million Americans looking for work with 3.3 million job openings going unfilled
- Chicago unemployment rate of 10% with 100,000 jobs unfilled
- Chicago’s solution? Job training through community colleges

Source: Chicago Tribune January 22, 2012
Remediation – A National Challenge

• More than 90% of students at EvCC enter at below college-level in math

• More than 60% of students at EvCC enter at below college-level in English
“City University of New York has long spent much of its energy and resources just teaching new students what they will need to begin taking college-level courses. But that tide of remedial students has now swelled so large that the university’s six community colleges – like other two-year schools across the country – are having to rethink what and how they teach, even as they reel from steep cuts in state and local aid.”

- About 75% of 17,500 CC freshmen needed remedial work in reading, writing or math
- Nearly 25% needed such instruction in all three areas
- 1000 are known as ‘triple-remedial’, double the number of past years
- Fewer than 50% of 2009 NY State high school graduates were prepared for college or careers as measured by state Regents exams in English and math
- NY State requires community colleges to admit every applicant with a high school diploma or equivalency degree
- NY community colleges spent about $33 million in 2010 on remediation
- Strong concern that required remediation is diverting attention from the colleges’ primary mission

Key Challenges Today

Technological Change:

- Data explosion
- Social networking
- Alternative communication technology
- Distance learning
- Innovation
• Students at 41% of public community colleges can earn a degree entirely online

• 92% of all community colleges offer at least one internet based course

• eLearning at EvCC offers a variety of online, hybrid and web enhanced courses

• EvCC offers two Associate degree options online

Source: American Association of Community Colleges • www.aacc.nche.edu
Key Challenges Today

Globalization:

- Increasing diversity of students, college, and community
- Differing family and cultural expectations
- Language challenges and barriers
- Economic challenges of internationalization
- Meeting needs of culturally diverse stakeholders
• Close to **100,000 international students** attend community colleges – about 39% of all international undergraduate students in the United States

• In Fall 2011 **2.1% of EvCC students** were international students

Source: American Association of Community Colleges • www.aacc.nche.edu
Some Impacts of Economic Challenges

- Rising costs for tuition, books, housing
- Reduced federal and state funding
- Decreasing financial aid
- Increased demand for education in poor economic times
- Competition intensifies
- Rapid shift in demand for classes of particular types
- Increased cost of operations
“It’s an ingrained value of the community colleges, that they’re there to serve the educational needs of their communities, and they have always responded as quickly as they can.”

(George Boggs, American Association of Community Colleges)

What are the key trends driving challenges such as these? What will community colleges need to do and how will their roles have to change to address such challenges?