

Current Trends and Strategies in Community Colleges

These trends were taken from multiple articles on current strategies and concerns in community colleges nationwide.

1. Topic – College Readiness (Is there an accurate measure for this)
 - a. Current testing systems lack the ability to appropriately measure a student’s knowledge.
 - b. Schools are currently looking into **exploring new tools** that look at deficiencies at a more granular level in order to provide more of a modular accelerated remedial education.
 - c. Orientation and First Year Experience Classes Increase student retention and completion rates.
2. Topic - Remedial/Developmental Education Drop Rates
 - a. Math my way Program in California. Accelerated math programming that maps out only the deficiencies so students do not need a whole math course for one or two topics they need help with.
 - b. Better, faster, and more effective. Boot camp courses to boost knowledge in a short amount of time.
3. Topic - Workforce Development and Workforce training
 - a. Latticing/partnering of non-credit and credit
 - b. Offering employment partners incumbent worker trainings to continue to build the relationships.
4. Topic – Educational Technology/ Online classes
 - a. Utilizing mobile applications as learning tools
 - b. Offering more online classes in order to reach the broader population. Sometimes this is prohibitive due to the needs for staff training to provide this.
 - c. Huge push for hybrid classes as it offers the flexibility and still face time in the classroom.
5. Topic - Enhancing Student Services – In a time of Budget Cuts
 - a. Colleges must remove the silos between academics and student affairs. – Completion agenda does not succeed without both sides of the house.
 - b. Holistic/Intrusive approaches to advising and student support. Forming relationships with student’s moves up completion rates.
6. Topic – Data Driven culture
 - a. Assessment orientated culture.
 - b. All new programs decisions should be made with labor market information.
 - c. Completion agenda
7. Topic – Grants – Governmental and Foundation Oriented
 - a. More excitement these days around Community Colleges in federal grants.
 - b. Grants offices in order to create the support needed with grants.
 - c. Mission Splitting – The grant money only works if it supports the mission of the college.
8. Topic – Diversity
 - a. Equity based education – Ensuring that all students have an opportunity to attend and complete.