

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

2007 Environmental Scan Committee

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DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS COMMITTEE

Final Report

Introduction: Community colleges must prepare to meet the challenges presented by declines in the academic preparedness of its student population, increases in the numbers of students available to enroll in college and impending changes in the ethnic diversity of its present and future student populations. The promise of having a better prepared pool of applicants in the future engineered by legislation, collides with the historic reality of declines in the quality of a secondary education, the impending retirements of much of the current workforce, and a continuing shortage in the availability of workers possessing the technical and soft skills needed by employers.

TREND 1: Population and enrollment trends within the MTC Service Area are expected to grow.

FINDINGS:

- 1) Community colleges are increasingly popular in the United States because they are arguably the most affordable route to good careers. With the cost of higher education soaring, people are looking for the most cost effective way to acquire skills that will make them marketable. According to the American Association of Community Colleges, close to one-half of the nation's undergraduates currently matriculate at two-year colleges.
- 2) In 2005, the population of Fairfield, Lexington and Richland counties was 599,386. By 2015, the population is projected to increase by 8% to 650,246. When examined by age groups, the college-going population between 20-29 years of age will increase by 4.5% while residents between the ages of 30-49 will decline by approximately -10.0% during the same time period.
- 3) Within the 15-49-year-old group, the largest numerical increase will be in the 30-34-year-old black male and the 20-24-year-old black female. The largest decreases will be in the 35-39-year-old white male, down 3665, and the 40-44-year-old white female down 2967.
- 4) The Hispanic population is now the largest minority in the country.

SOURCES:

U. S. Census Bureau; <http://quickfacts.census.gov> (1-1)
Globalizing: Getting Started; By Thomas Cardwell; Community College Journal;
August/September 2006 (1-2)
Columbia, South Carolina Census; www.hellocolumbia.com (1-3)
US Bureau of the Census <http://www.census.gov/population/projections/PressGraph3.xls> (1-4)
SC State Fact Sheet (Enid Santiago, MTC Spanish instructor) (1-4)

TREND 2: Changing demographics will result in increasing numbers of non-traditional students and a more diverse population.

FINDINGS:

- 1) Three-quarters of today's students are non traditional students.
- 2) "By 2010, of the 400 million new entrants in the labor market, only 5% will come from western, industrialized countries."
- 3) Nationally, among part-time students, minority enrollment increased over the past two decades: Asian enrollment increased by 357.2%; Hispanic enrollment increased by 262.9%; and African American enrollment increased by 85.3%. At four-year institutions, minority enrollment among part-time students increased at a lower rate.
- 4) Enrollment at two-year colleges increased by 53% among full-time female students and 82% among part-time female students. Currently, MTC is one of the top 50 (#42) colleges in the country in the number of associate degrees awarded to black students.
- 5) Many students with disabilities choose community colleges over four-year colleges as their first or only postsecondary education experience (Savukinas, 2003). Data from the U.S. Department of Education suggests that nearly 60% of students with disabilities who attend postsecondary institutions, attend those institutions with two-year programs or less than two-year programs (U.S. Department of Education, 2002).
- 6) Recent research indicates that two-year institutions tend to offer more varied, specialized services for educating students with disabilities while maintaining stronger community linkages than do four-year institutions (Chang and Logan, 2002).
- 7) Budget information obtained from the college's office of Counseling and Career Services indicates a significant amount of funds expensed to provide sign language interpreters and note takers for students with disabilities. The office spent over \$116,000 in 2004; \$118,000 in 2005 and \$130,000 in 2006. Over \$75,000 have been expensed for the current fiscal year on sign language interpreters.

SOURCES:

The Chronicle Review "Ferment and Change: Higher Education in 2015"

<http://chronicle.com/weekly/v52/i14/14b00601.htm> (2-1)

Responding to the changing workforce Strategic HR Review. Sept/Oct. 2006. Vol. 5 Issue 6 pg 3 (2-2)

Student Access in Community Colleges [Michael T. Nettles](#) [Catherine M. Millett](#) Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (2-3,4)

Community College Week Analysis of U.S. Department of Education Data

<http://dev.ccweek.com/news/templates/pdfs/Top100//2006/CCWTop100-Black-AS.pdf> (2-4)

Savukinas, R. (2003). Community Colleges and Students with Disabilities, HEATH Resource Center. [online]. <http://www.heath.gwu.edu/Templates/Newsletter/issue3/commcoll.htm> (2-5,6,7)

U.S. Department of Education (2002). National Postsecondary Student Aid Survey: Data Analysis System [online]. www.nces.ed.gov/surveys/npsas.das.asp (2-5,6,7)
Chang, K., & Logan, J. (2002). A Comparison of Accommodations and Supports for Students with Disabilities in Two-year versus Four-Year Postsecondary Institutions. National Center for the Study of Postsecondary Educational Supports. [online].
<http://www.rrtc.hawaii.edu/documents/products/phase3/>. (2-5,6,7)
Burns, E., & Davis, D. (2007). Anecdotal information obtained from Office of Counseling and Career Services, Midlands Technical College. (2-5,6,7)

TREND 3: There will be a shortage of workers possessing technical and soft skills needed to meet workforce requirements.

FINDINGS:

- 1) The country must address the lack of interest in science and engineering degrees by American undergraduate students. Only 32% of American undergraduates receive degrees in science and engineering, compared to 66% in Japan and 59% in China.
- 2) A Society of Human Resource Management's recent study predicted the following demographic trends will impact the workforce: aging population, skills shortages, immigration and foreign-born workers.
- 3) The US Department of Labor predicts a shortage of 10 million workers by 2008. This shortage is expected to decrease race, gender and age-based discrimination.
- 4) The New York Times article, "At Two-Year Colleges, Students Eager but Unprepared," describes the issue of college readiness and how community colleges can be part of the solution to student success. The article states, "Though higher education is now a near-universal aspiration, researchers suggest that close to half the students who enter college need remedial courses."

SOURCES:

The Chronicle Review "Ferment and Change: Higher Education in 2015"
<http://chronicle.com/weekly/v52/i14/14b00601.htm> (3-1)
SHRM's Workforce Trends and Forecasts June 2006
<http://www.shrm.org/trends/061606WorkplaceForecast.pdf> (3-2)
Talent Management: Trends that Will Shape the Future HR. Human Resource Planning 2004 Vol. 27, Issue 1; pg.33 (3-3)
New York Times "[At Two-Year Colleges, Students Eager but Unprepared](#)" by Diana Jean Schemo, September 2, 2006. (3-4)

TREND 4: Baby boomers (retirees) represent an emerging market for student growth.

FINDINGS:

- 1) The retirement of baby boomers is restructuring today's workplace.
- 2) Many baby boomers will return to college after retirement for personal or professional gain. MTC should continue to provide courses, either through programs or continuing education to fulfill their needs.
- 3) In a survey conducted by the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM), America's aging population was the leading demographic trend affecting today's workforce.
- 4) In the MTC Service Area, by 2015, the number of retirees between the ages of 55-70 will increase by 51.4%.

SOURCES:

"Global Pressures Widen HR's Horizons." HR Magazine Alexandria: Aug 2006 Vol. 51, Iss. 8, p 34 (4-1)

Why are Baby Boomers Returning to College?

<http://adulted.about.com/cs/studiesstats1/a/boomers.htm> (4-2)

"Global Pressures Widen HR's Horizons." HR Magazine Alexandria: Aug 2006 Vol. 51, Iss. 8, p 34 (4-3)

TREND 5: Students will continue to arrive at college academically unprepared for college-level work.

FINDINGS:

- 1) The 2006 SC State Report Card reveals a drop in statewide graduation rates from 77.3% to 74.3% for the three-year period ending in 2006. MTC's district service area decline for the same period is 2.8%.
- 2) In 2007, South Carolina will begin, through the implementation of EEDA legislation, to address the pressing problem of school dropouts by defining criteria to identify at-risk students.
 - a. Implementation of EEDA will impose a new emphasis on life planning. All eighth grade students will be required to develop and amend Individual Graduation Plans (IGP). Students will be exposed to more career, educational and life choices than in the past and require articulation agreements among the state's high schools, two-year colleges, and four-year colleges.
 - b. Because the drop-out problem is so pressing, the EEDA also requires that by July 2007, the State Board of Education define criteria for identifying students at risk of being poorly prepared for the next level of study or for dropping out of school. The board must also find evidence-based model programs for keeping at-risk students in school.
 - c. By 2010, the goal of EEDA is to have our student achievement ranked in the top half of the states nationally.

- 3) "Sixty-five percent of the state's approximately 1,109 public schools' Report Cards received Absolute ratings of Excellent, Good or Average in 2006, down from 74 percent in 2005. The percentage of schools with the lowest Absolute rating of Unsatisfactory increased from 6% to 13%."
- 4) MTC's service area 2006 district statistics show that of the eight districts, two rate Excellent (Lexington 1, 5), three rate Average (Lexington 2, 3, Richland 2), two rate Below Average (Lexington 4, Richland 1), one rates Unsatisfactory (Fairfield). For all districts, none showed an improvement over 2005. Five districts had no change and the remaining three showed decreases.
- 5) MTC serves 26 high schools in the pool of schools to be rated. 53.8% rated Excellent and Good (34.6% Excellent, 19.2% Good). While none of the schools rated Below Average, the remaining schools (46.2%) rated Unsatisfactory or did not show report data available (four schools).
- 6) Improvement rates increased for three of the 26 schools in MTC's service area. Seven schools remained the same and 12 schools showed decreases in improvement. The school with the greatest negative improvement index rated Excellent in improvement.
- 7) South Carolina ranks 47th in the nation for the overall well-being of children. In 2005, the ranking was 45%. In 2006, more than half of South Carolina's schools had at least 70% of their students living in poverty. Twenty percent (20%) of the schools serve student populations where more than 90% of the students live in poverty.
- 8) The State Department of Education 2006 Technology Counts include Total Students of 691,322; Total Classrooms of 46,875; and Total Computers of 228,055.
- 9) As of 2000, the percentage of population 25 years. or older with less than a 12th grade education is Fairfield 33% (5,027); Lexington 17% (34,147); and Richland 14.8% (29,506).
- 10) As of 2000, the percentage of population 25 or older with at least a bachelor's degree is Fairfield 11.7% (1,778); Lexington 24.6% (34,965); and Richland 32.5% (64,552).
- 11) As of 2003, the percentage of population in public or non-public K-12 is Fairfield 14.7% (3,510); Lexington 20.8% (47,158); and Richland 13.4% (43,781).

SOURCES:

2006 State Report Card Ratings <http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=712> (5-1,2)
<http://ed.sc.gov/features/eeda/index.html> (5-3,4,5,6)
 South Carolina Department of Education (5-7,8,9,10,11)