

Serving Community Colleges

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) is the U.S. Department of Education's (department) largest formula grant program for secondary and postsecondary career and technical education, providing approximately \$1.1 billion dollars annually to states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, Palau, and the Virgin Islands (collectively referred to as "states"). Of the Perkins funds that states distribute to their local recipients each year, roughly 40 percent of funds are awarded to community colleges.

The Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) provides leadership to the nation's nearly 1,200 community colleges, community college students, faculty, and administration through initiatives that strengthen the quality and excellence of community college programs, and by focusing on policy and practice that impact student success. As open-access institutions, community colleges are critical entry points to higher education and economic opportunity for Americans, including low-income students, working adults, ethnic minorities, and new immigrants who have been traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education. Community colleges are also leading providers of career and technical education and make important contributions to state and local economies by filling the need for highly skilled workers in today's high-demand jobs. With growing enrollment and increasingly diverse student bodies, community colleges are rapidly evolving to meet the tri-fold challenge of ensuring affordability, accessibility, and accountability for results.

Reports and Tools You Can Use

- A Web site with reports, articles, webcasts, webinars, and podcasts to assist community college faculty, administrators, students, parents, and employers the accessibility, affordability, accountability, and quality of their institutions.
- Proceedings from the 2007 Community College Virtual Summit that addressed the topics of transitions, adult and non-traditional students, accountability, and leadership.

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Web Site OVAE – <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/cclo/index.html>

Initiatives Underway

Community Colleges Can: Institutions Sharing Success – This project will spotlight innovative programs and practices that promote student retention and successful transitions to and from community colleges. Case studies will illustrate approaches to dual enrollment, developmental education, articulation agreements, and student support services.

Community College Research Symposium – Education leaders, researchers, and policymakers will convene in June 2008 to discuss the major findings and implications of a series of commissioned papers on topics of critical importance in improving community colleges.

Issues that Matter to Community Colleges – These meetings convene community college presidents and chancellors to discuss their challenges and successes in establishing policies related to career pathways, articulation agreements, developmental education, and adult literacy.

Ready for College: Adult Education Transitions Program – Four grants were awarded to state and local education agencies to support efforts to improve transitions from Adult Secondary Education to community college for out-of-school youth.

STEM Transitions: Enhancing Mathematics and Science Rigor through Evidence-Based Curriculum Projects – This project will provide community college faculty with instructional materials and curricula for teaching integrated academic and technical mathematics and science skills in six career clusters: health science, information technology, manufacturing, transportation, STEM, and agriculture.

International Community College Collaboration – OVAE is partnering with international education leaders to create opportunities for global student and faculty exchange and to assist nations in developing robust community college systems.