

When community college beats getting a bachelor's

For many middle-wage jobs, the cheaper 2-year associates degree makes more financial sense than spending 4 years in classrooms.

Community college: It's not just a setting for a cult NBC sitcom anymore. Hold your nose if you must, four-year college snobs, but even the starched shirts at Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce acknowledge that **nearly 30% of Americans with associate's degrees from community colleges make more than their counterparts with bachelor's degrees**. In fact, as CNNMoney reports, **community college graduates in several states make more immediately after graduation than those who graduate from four-year institutions**.

The average wage for graduates of community colleges in Tennessee, CNNMoney notes, is \$38,948. That's more than \$1,300 higher than the average salaries for students who graduate the state's four-year colleges.

In Virginia, the \$40,000 starting salary for community college students earning occupational and technical degrees is \$2,500 higher than bachelor's degree recipients. Those salaries tend to even out as bachelor's degree earners advance -- with **associate's degree recipients averaging about \$500,000 more over their careers than people with only high school diplomas, but \$500,000 less than bachelor's degrees recipients**. However, the community college grads get an even bigger head start by paying less for their education up front. ...

<http://money.msn.com/now/post.aspx?post=981d3523-f78b-4104-aebf-eb99a9b376ee>

The End of Community Colleges

In 1996, the Chancellor of the State University of New York suggested community colleges were more sensitive than universities to the whims of the marketplace and more at risk of closing. We might, he said, disappear because of the ability of competitors to deliver similar services and programs more cost effectively and with greater public acceptance. His comments ignited a theme that inspired me then to publish an article in the Community College Week, which is even more relevant today: that **a community colleges' most profound challenge is to inspire trustees, faculty, staff and students to understand that rapid and dramatic academic, instructional, and organizational changes are necessary for community colleges to fulfill the demands of community and employers in the 21st century**.

The issue is quite simple. The university owns the public's respect as a prestigious gateway to a successful life. Many small colleges will disappear, but universities will continue to generate substantial funds for technology advancement, research and teaching, continuing their control of access to a desired future. Yet, community colleges serve almost half of higher education's students today but face the following: ...

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bruce-leslie/the-end-of-community-coll_b_2829862.html

Adjuncts on File

New Jersey's community colleges will this year consolidate how they hire and train non-tenure-track instructors, but some adjuncts are concerned the program will make it more difficult to find teaching opportunities in the state. The initiative, scheduled to launch this summer or fall, will go live as a Web portal that connects aspiring

adjuncts with community colleges searching for qualified instructors. In addition to simply serving as a job board, the website will allow adjuncts to post their profiles, making their fields of study visible to New Jersey's 19 community colleges.

Steven M. Rose, president of Passaic County Community College, said such an initiative has never before been attempted by community colleges in other states. "If they did, we would have copied from them," Rose said.

The effort to simplify how institutions recruit adjuncts comes after New Jersey's community colleges have increasingly come to depend on adjunct faculty members to tackle explosive enrollment growth. At Passaic County Community College, the number of adjunct faculty members has more than doubled in the last decade. Today, **the institution has 103 tenure-track faculty members and about 550 adjuncts**, Rose said. ...

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2013/03/07/new-jersey-community-colleges-launch-web-portal-hire-train-adjuncts#ixzz2MxzJd7nN>

New BLS Data Show Gender Gap Growing in College Education

A report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics today says that young women have opened up a big lead over young men in education. By the October **when they were 25 years old, 30 percent of women and just 22 percent of men had received a bachelor's degree**, the government announced.

Women's schooling edge comes as no surprise to Thomas DiPrete and Claudia Buchmann, co-authors of *The Rise of Women: The Growing Gender Gap in Education and What It Means for American Schools*.

Despite its title, the book is as much about the underperformance of men as it is about the outperformance of women. I sat down recently with DiPrete, who's a sociology professor at Columbia University. (Buchmann is a sociology professor at Ohio State University.) ...

<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-03-01/new-bls-data-shows-gender-gap-growing-in-college-education>