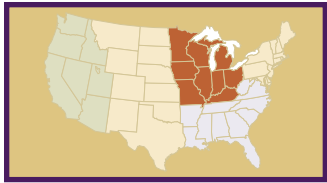


Around the Regions



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**CENTRAL
 REGION**
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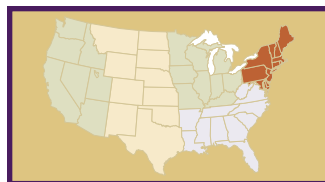
Due to a state cash-flow crisis, grant payments to **Illinois's** 48 public community colleges have fallen nearly six months behind, according to the Illinois Community College Trustees Association. At the same time, statewide opening fall headcount enrollment increased 6.4 percent this fall to a 27-year high, with some schools reporting 30 percent increases. The 1981–82 recession was the only time when fall headcount enrollments were higher across the Illinois community college system, according to ICCTA.

Four **Wisconsin** businesses and consortiums representing 15 companies within Moraine Park Technical College's district received \$247,729 in workforce advancement training grants from the Wisconsin Technical College System. The grants provided training for 1,184 workers at Moraine Park, which offered programs focusing on Six Sigma, Lean, project management, error reduction, and computer skills enhancement, among other skills.

Under the auspices of the Vocational Education Leadership

Training (VELT) program, Parkland College in Illinois hosted senior administrators from three vocational and technical institutions in China.

The mock trial team at Elgin Community College in Illinois was the only community college team that participated at a fall invitational tournament at Harvard University. With members ranging in age from 20 to 50, ECC's all-female team of paralegal students — most of whom also work full-time — beat teams from Yale and Villanova University, and finished with a higher ranking than their counterparts from Dartmouth, Wellesley, Boston College, Boston University, and Wake Forest. ECC is one of five community colleges nationwide that participates in American Mock Trial Association competitions.



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**NORTHEAST
 REGION**
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The City University of **New York** (CUNY) is moving forward with the development of a new community college in Manhattan after receiving planning funds from New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The

college, included in CUNY's board-approved master plan, is informed by the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) initiative at CUNY's six community colleges, which is on track to graduate more than 60 percent of students in three years.

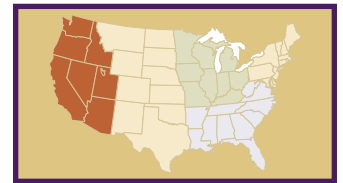
Full-time enrollment in **New Jersey's** 19 community colleges increased by a record 12 percent from fall 2008 to fall 2009, reaching a new all-time high. Total full-time credit enrollment grew from 86,186 to 96,838, while part-time credit enrollment increased 2 percent during the same period, to 79,679 students. In total, 176,517 students are taking college-credit courses this fall.

Demand for welding classes at the Community College of Allegheny County in **Pennsylvania** has grown so much that the school plans to offer classes from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. starting in January. "Actually, a lot of these students prefer midnight or late-night hours because it fits their schedules better," instructor John Ginther told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Enrollment at **Rhode Island's** three public colleges, including the Community College of Rhode Island, hit a record high this fall, narrowly edging out the previous highs seen during the state's 1992 recession. CCRI added 148 students for a total enrollment of 17,760, but school officials said they had to turn down an additional 2,000 prospective students

who were unable to pay tuition. "We couldn't have accommodated them," CCRI President Ray DiPasquale told the *Providence Journal*.

Holyoke Community College in **Massachusetts** opened its recently renovated \$3.2 million media center, which will be used to teach classes including multimedia design, photography, digital imaging, Web design, video, and animation. The renovation project was funded in part by \$600,000 in federal stimulus money provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

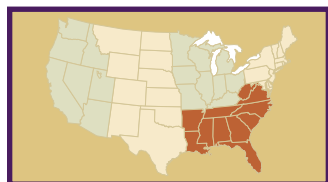


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**PACIFIC
 REGION**
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Cascadia Community College, Edmonds Community College, and Everett Community College in **Washington** will offer compressed certificate programs for working adults and recently unemployed workers through a \$496,000 grant awarded to the Workforce Development Council Snohomish County (WDCSC) by the U.S. Department of Education. Along with providing a support person to help students enroll, find campus services, and locate employment opportunities, the

compressed programs will allow Cascadia students to complete a Web Foundations certificate in one quarter and an Energy Management Specialist program in three to four quarters instead of five to six quarters. "This is a great opportunity for our students to quickly get the skills they need for good jobs in the growing economic sectors of our region," says Ann Beaulieu, Cascadia's vice president for student learning.

Mt. Hood Community College was one of more than a dozen colleges throughout **Oregon** that hosted "College Night in Oregon," a free event to help high school students choose a college and apply for financial aid and scholarships. Sponsors include the Educational Credit Management Corporation, the Oregon Student Assistance Commission, ASPIRE, and GEAR UP.



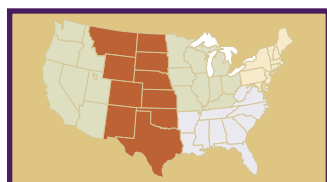
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**SOUTHERN
 REGION**
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The **North Carolina** Community College System has seen an additional 15,000 students enroll this year without additional state funding to support them, officials said. The system increased tuition by \$8 per credit hour to \$50

to help offset budget cuts and accommodate growing enrollments, according to the *Charlotte Business Journal*.

To track the status of various construction projects, including maintenance work totaling \$6 million and three major renovations valued at \$33.1 million, Polk State College in **Florida** has developed a monthly report that provides status updates to the district's board of trustees, faculty, staff, and administrators. The Project Status Report has received favorable feedback from trustees and others at the college, officials said.

Craven Community College in North Carolina was awarded \$535,000 in grant funding for its manufacturing and aeronautical programs. Part of \$4.2 million given statewide for aerospace industry job training by the Golden LEAF foundation, the grant will fund two new instructor positions and equipment.



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**WESTERN
 REGION**
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The **Wyoming** Community College Task Force, a committee of legislators and educators formed in 2006

to re-evaluate the state's community college system, ended its work without finding new funding mechanisms to raise additional revenue. Options discussed included a statewide property tax levy and a sales tax, but in the end, consensus on a fair and sustainable plan couldn't be reached, according to the *Star-Tribune*. The task force developed a strategic plan for the system, including increasing need-based state aid and expanding distance learning. All seven local community college boards have approved the strategic plan.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded a \$245,764 grant to boost college graduation rates to Maricopa Community Colleges and the city of Phoenix in **Arizona**. As part of a National League of Cities initiative to help city and college officials work together to streamline services for underserved community college students, the program will focus on strengthening community partnerships and study high school coursework and college readiness. "Cities have not traditionally been focused on post-secondary success, but that is changing," said Donald Brout, executive director of the National League of Cities. "Recognizing that an educated workforce forms the underpinning of a vibrant local economy, municipal leaders have turned new attention toward boosting college completion rates."

The grant is one of seven awarded nationally, including one in which Mesa Community College is a partner.

For the first time ever, **Colorado** community colleges had to cut off sections because of a lack of qualified professors in the face of increasing enrollments, according to the 13-school Colorado Community College System. Systemwide enrollment is up 17.4-percent this fall, on top of a 7.2-percent increase the previous year. With students taking more courses, the full-time equivalent count has increased by nearly 20 percent, while state budgets have been repeatedly cut. One institution, the Community College of Denver, has become one of the top three community colleges in the nation in terms of enrollment growth. "We've never seen that kind of growth — at least in the last 20 years," Front Range Community College President Andy Dorsey told *Ed News Colorado*. "We also haven't seen a major recession here in a long time."

Community colleges in **Nebraska** are experiencing double-digit jumps in enrollment, according to the Nebraska Community College Association. Southeast Community College, for example, posted a 10.3 percent enrollment jump across its three campuses this fall.

Around the Regions provides an opportunity to share what's happening in the states and around the regions. This section focuses on state legislative and budgetary issues, economic development, and finance. Please e-mail items from press releases or newsletters to ACCT at dconner@acct.org. Fax submissions to 202-223-1297.