

# Around the Regions



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**CENTRAL  
 REGION**  
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A new economic impact study found that **Illinois** community colleges helped generate \$3.5 billion and more than 43,000 jobs during fiscal year 2020. The Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies survey found that associate degree graduates had an employment rate of 85 percent.

Ivy Tech Community College in **Indiana** completed a \$43 million renovation of its Kokomo campus, \$40 million of which was funded by the state's general assembly.

Graduates from **Ohio's** largest K-12 school district can now attend community college tuition free. The Columbus Promise initiative allows Columbus City Schools graduates for the next three years to attend Columbus State Community College tuition free, as well as receive additional money for expenses and wraparound academic and career supports.

Eight Ohio colleges and universities, including Lakeland Community College, Lorain Community College, and Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C), are launching a pilot program to allow students to

recover "stranded credits" by allowing those with unpaid debts to re-enroll at their original school or another participating institution.

**Kentucky's** Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship Program (WRKS) provides up to 60 hours of tuition in programs for high-demand fields such as manufacturing for those who qualify.

Gateway Technical College in **Wisconsin** introduced the Badger, an autonomous vehicle to be tested on its campus in partnership with the city of Racine, University of Wisconsin-Madison Traffic Operations and Safety Laboratory and Perronne Robotics.



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**NORTHEAST  
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The **Maine** Community College System launched the Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine's Workforce, a \$60 million virtual center that will expand access to degree and certificate programs at low or no cost to more than 24,000 Maine residents over the next four years. The center is funded with a four-year, \$15.5 million grant from the Harold Alfond Foundation, \$35 million

in federal COVID relief funds, and \$10 million in matching funds from the private sector, other grants, and established workforce funding.

**New Jersey** Gov. Phil Murphy signed legislation that commits \$3 million to the New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development to fund a workplace literacy and basic skills training program delivered by the state's 18 community colleges.

The New Jersey Business and Industry Association and the state's community colleges have launched the New Jersey Pathways to Career Opportunities program, which will gather input from employers, industry associations, labor unions, and workforce development partners to help design structured pathways for students to find in-demand jobs and career opportunities.

A study found that nearly 85 percent of participants in **Maryland's** 2+2 transfer scholarship, designed to financially support students transferring from community colleges to four-year institutions in the state, completed a degree at the same institution within three years. Maryland is one of only three states to offer financial aid that is specifically targeted for transfer students, according to the Tackling Transfer Policy Advisory Board.

The University of Maryland Medical System launched a \$5.1 million initiative to recruit nurses

and other clinical experts from the state's community colleges.



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**PACIFIC  
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Amazon is funding a pilot program to launch computer science bachelor's degree programs at **Washington** community and technical colleges. Amazon's \$3 million investment will be split among Seattle Colleges, the Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, and the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship. The state currently imports four times as many computer science graduates as it creates, according to state officials.

Microsoft is launching a nationwide training program for community college students, making its cybersecurity curriculum available for free to all public community colleges, offering 25,000 scholarships, and training faculty at 150 colleges at the National Cybersecurity Training and Education Center at Whatcom Community College in Washington.

Coconino Community College in **Arizona** received a five-year, \$2.1 million Native American-

Serving Nontribal Institution (NASNTI) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The college will use the grant to increase success rates for Native American students in foundational English and math courses, increase completion and transfer rates of Native American students, and enhance a sense of belonging at CCC among Native American students and their families.

**California** Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill into law making baccalaureate programs piloted at 15 of the state's community colleges permanent and allowing other community colleges to establish similar programs that meet workforce needs.

The California community college system is asking the state for \$100 million to upgrade security and overhaul its application portal to prevent fraudulent attempts to obtain financial aid.

Long Beach City College in California announced a "Safe Parking Program" to allow unhoused students to sleep in their vehicles at the college's parking garage.

The **Oregon** Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) appointed members to a new transfer council, established during the state's 2021 legislative session. Comprised of representatives from Oregon public universities, community colleges, and high schools, the council will develop

and advance work to streamline student transfer pathways between institutions.



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**SOUTHERN  
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**North Carolina** Gov. Roy Cooper allotted \$86.4 million from federal COVID-19 relief funding to extend free community college tuition at the state's 58 community colleges to the 2020 high school graduating class.

Sixteen **South Carolina** community colleges are offering a new pre-academy certificate program to address shortages in law enforcement. The 14-week program creates a new career pathway in law enforcement, the Police Pre-Academy Training Certificate.

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster allocated \$17 million from the state's emergency education relief fund to launch a pilot scholarship program for students enrolled in programs supporting high-demand career fields, including manufacturing, healthcare, and construction.

Nursing students who obtained two-year degrees at any **Louisiana** community college

can transfer to The University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) to pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing as part of an agreement to address a statewide nursing shortage.

Two **Mississippi** community colleges, Copiah-Lincoln Community College and Southwest Mississippi Community College, jointly hosted an economic development summit which included Gov. Tate Reeves as the keynote speaker.

Northern **Virginia** Community College was awarded a \$100,000 competitive grant to support its Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program from the rock band Metallica's All Within My Hands Foundation. The Metallica Scholars Initiative is focused on promoting professional trades and community colleges.



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**WESTERN  
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A new **Colorado** law allows Native American students from across the United States to pay in-state college tuition at the state's institutions.

A bill drafted by the Colorado Department of Higher Education

would create a committee to recommend strategies to help students with disabilities graduate from college. The bill would also require the state's colleges and universities to report annually how many students with disabilities enroll and graduate, as well as what services are available to them.

**Texas** is the first state to set higher education goals connected directly to career earnings, after the Texas Higher Educating Coordinating Board approved changes to its 60x30 plan to focus on adult learners.

Texas legislators approved \$3.3 billion in funding for capital projects in higher education.

Dallas College will become the first community college system in Texas to offer a four-year bachelor's degree program in education.

The Alamo Colleges District moved to a new course material model which provides free textbook rentals for new and returning students and ensures that all students will have instructional materials on the first day of class.

The **Wyoming** Innovation Partnership, made up of the University of Wyoming and the state's seven community colleges, asked the state legislation for \$120 million to foster educational collaboration and partnerships with local businesses to boost the state's economy.

*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 [jbray@acct.org](mailto:jbray@acct.org).*