

State Policies for Higher Education and Economic Growth: The National View

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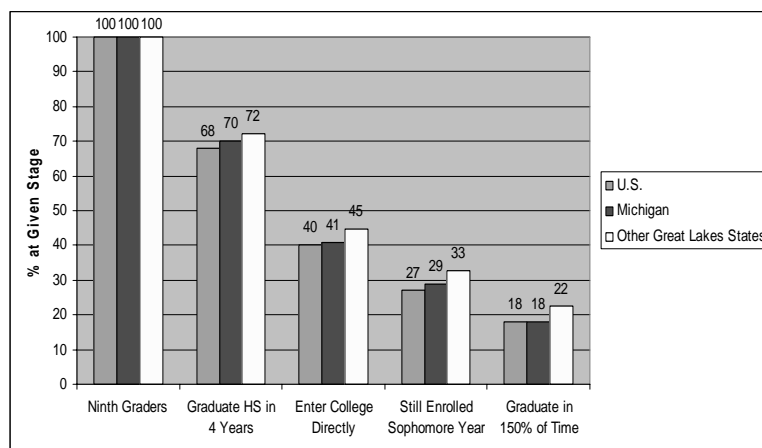
New State Policy Agenda for Higher Education

1. Prepare broader segment of residents to thrive in 21st Century knowledge economy
2. Create knowledge that leads to development of new products, businesses and jobs
3. Improve return on public investment

Disconnect between Current Higher Ed Systems and Economic Needs

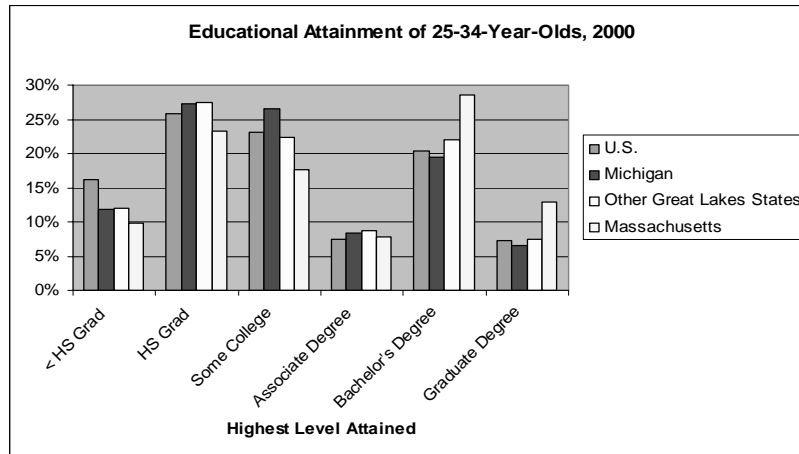
- Weak connection between higher education and labor market
- Education systems don't communicate -- no clear pathway for students
- Only an elite group makes it through and into well-paying, high-demand careers
- Too many lower income and first generation students fall through the cracks
- Most higher education still not responsive to needs of the largest group of students – those who work

Michigan's Leaky Education Pipeline



Source: National Center for Higher Education Management Systems. www.higheredinfo.org

Michigan's Knowledge Worker Gap



Source: U.S. Census 2000.

Strategy for Removing the Roadblocks

Rethink education at all levels to close gaps and create educational pathways that lead to credentials, career entry or advancement and further learning for youths and adults

Pathways Practices

- ✓ Standards at each level aligned with requirements of education and employment at next level and beyond
- ✓ “Road maps” to educational and job advancement
- ✓ Focus on economic sectors of importance to regions
- ✓ At postsecondary level, most programs designed for working students
- ✓ Guidance and support for overcoming barriers
- ✓ “Bridge” programs to connect disenfranchised to pathways
- ✓ Lynchpin role of community colleges

Pathways Policies

For increasing college-going by high school students:

- P – 16 alignment (MD, NY, many others trying)
- Early outreach (CA, FL, OK, RI)
- Dual hs - college enrollment (IL, UT, WA)

Pathways Policies

For increasing college access and attainment by adults with poor basic skills and low incomes:

- Adult basic education – community college “bridge” programs (AR, KY, IL, MA, WA)
- Intensive case management to ensure TANF recipients succeed in college (KY)
- Social marketing aimed at low-income adults (KY – “Go Higher”)
- Strengthening community college role in serving low-income adults (19 states in Ford and Lumina Foundation initiatives)

Pathways Policies

For increasing retention and degree completion by college students:

- Curriculum modularization and “stepping stone” credentialing system (KY)
- Financial aid for part-time students (IL)
- Accountability for retention and graduation (FL, NC)

Pathways Policies

For increasing baccalaureate transfer by community college students:

- Common course numbering (CO, TX)
- General education core accepted for junior standing at state universities (CO, FL, NC)
- Concurrent acceptance at community college and university (OR)
- Applied baccalaureate (MO, WA)
- "University centers" at community colleges (NJ, MI, WA)

Pathways Policies

For improving responsiveness of postsecondary institutions to labor market needs:

- Regional Skills Alliances (IN, MI, WA)
- Career Pathways (AR, KY, MA, OH, OR)
- Performance-based funding for occupational education (ID, FL)

Pathways Policies

For state-level tracking of student progress and outcomes:

- Cross-system tracking (FL)
- Within system tracking (WA – community and technical college system)
- Wage record tracking of employment outcomes (CA, FL, WA)

Pathways Policies

For educating the public about increased importance of postsecondary education:

- Social marketing (KY – “Education Pays”, WA re: importance of community colleges to state economy)

Where Michigan Stands

- Ahead on some fronts (adults with “some college,” locally responsive community colleges, significant private-sector funding through the “joint funds”)
- Behind on others (graduation/college-going by urban hs students, degree completion, P-16 alignment)
- Lt. Gov’s Commission offers opportunity to leapfrog competition with a holistic vision and action plan for building on MI’s strengths and addressing weaknesses