Measuring Progress Toward Attaining Connecticut’s Goals: An Initial Set of Accountability Metrics

Planning Commission for Higher Education
Hartford, Connecticut
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Goal 1: Education Attainment

- Increase education attainment of the adult population of the state

Direct Measures

- Trends in proportion of population aged 25-64 with
  - An associate degree or higher
  - Associate degree only
  - Baccalaureate degree or higher

- Trends in the education attainment gap between whites and underrepresented minorities
  - 25-34 year-olds
  - 25-64 year-olds

- Trends in education attainment gaps between residents of cities’ urban cores and the rest of the state
  - 25-34 year-olds
  - 25-64 year-olds

* - Trends in quality of degrees awarded – extent to which degrees reflect deeper learning required in the workforce and by modern society

*Requires development of metrics & new data collection.
Supporting Metrics

* – Trends in proportion of recent high school graduates entering community colleges as first-time students who test as needing remedial-level work
  • In one subject
  • In two subjects
  • In more than two subjects

* – Trends in the number and proportions of students who test at the remedial level and complete a college-level gateway course within one year of enrolling
  – Trends in numbers of adults completing academic programs (individuals 25 and older at the time the award is received)
    • Baccalaureate
    • Associate
    • Certificates of value

*Requires new data collection.
Connecticut Goals

• **Goal 2: Competitive workforce, regions and communities**
  – Increase higher education’s contributions to a globally competitive economy and workforce and sustainable regions and communities

Direct Measures
  – Trends in numbers of degrees produced in fields identified as state priorities (STEM, health, digital media, high-value certificates – advanced manufacturing)
    • Doctoral degrees
    • Masters degrees
    • Baccalaureate degree
    • Associate degree
    • Certificates
Connecticut Goals
(Goal 2 continued)

Direct Measures
* – Trends in new business activity resulting from research
* – Partnerships in every region – metrics to be developed
* – Trends in number of students in community service, internships, and workplace-based learning activity

Supporting Metrics
– Proportion of jobs in regions and communities that are “living wage” jobs – they pay twice the poverty level wage
  • Cities
  • Regions
– Net import/export of individuals with baccalaureate degrees or higher (who have/had) “high wage” jobs
  • Regions
– Trends in per capita income relative to the state average
  • Regions

*Requires new data collection.
• **Goal 3: Affordability**
  – Ensure that higher education is affordable for Connecticut residents

**Direct Measures**
– Trends in net cost of attendance relative to median family income
  • Research Universities
  • 4-year comprehensives
  • Community colleges
– Trends in net cost of attendance relative to low quintile family income
  • Research Universities
  • 4-year comprehensives
  • Community colleges
Direct Measures (continued)

- Trends in proportion of Connecticut undergraduate students with student loans
- Trends in the average size of student loans – benchmarked to the national average

Supporting/Contextual Measures

- Trends in proportion of Connecticut high school graduates who enroll in Connecticut
- Trends in percent increases in undergraduate tuition (sticker price)
  - Research Universities
  - 4-year comprehensives
  - Community colleges
- Annual % change in
  - State need-based aid
  - Institutional need-based aid
    - Research Universities
    - 4-year comprehensives
    - Community colleges