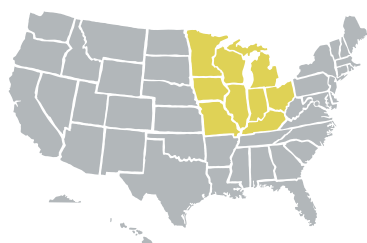


# AROUND THE REGIONS



## CENTRAL REGION

The **Illinois** General Assembly passed a bill that would help community college students transfer to public universities by ensuring that certain classes taken at community colleges would be accepted for credit. Another bill codifies an agreement that allows community colleges to share career and technical education programs across institutions.

**Indiana's** Commission for Higher Education (CHE) approved specific outcomes-based performance goals, including a separate funding plan that allows Ivy Tech Community College's goals to continue to center around employer needs, as well as increased wage outcomes and stackable credentials for students.

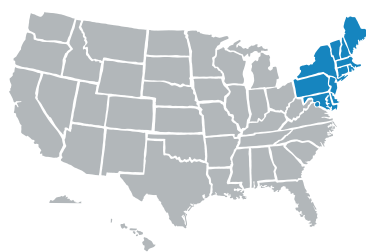
**Iowa** Gov. Kim Reynolds announced that \$5 million in infrastructure grants are being made available to community colleges for commercial driver's license training programs. Reynolds also signed into law the Iowa Registered Apprenticeship Act, which establishes an Iowa Office of Apprenticeship within the Department of Workforce Development.

**Michigan** is expanding its Michigan Reconnect program, which offers tuition-free community college to adults with no postsecondary education. Michigan Reconnect has helped more than 123,000 students attend college since its inception in 2021. Following an initial \$140 million investment, the state has invested another \$70 million and dropped the age to qualify from 25 to 21, which could help another 350,000 people.

The Michigan Community College Association (MCAA) announced that the state's 31 community and tribal colleges are accepting certain industry-recognized credentials and certifications for college credit. The Michigan Transfer Network program is funded by the Ascendium Education Group.

Intel tasked the **Ohio** Association of Community Colleges Semiconductor Collaboration Network with adding semiconductor-specific courses and equipment to engineering technology and advanced manufacturing programs. The work is part of the \$17.7 million that Intel will give over three years to Ohio colleges and universities to create semiconductor education and workforce programs to support its \$20 billion investment in microchip factories in the state.

Three community colleges in Ohio increased their graduation rates by 50% over the past six years with the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs. The ASAP program, originally developed in New York, also boosted the earnings of participants by 11%.



## NORTHEAST REGION

As part of the consolidation of **Connecticut's** community colleges and launch of the new Connecticut State Community College on July 1, CT State secured its initial accreditation from the New England Commission of Higher Education as a 17-campus statewide community college.

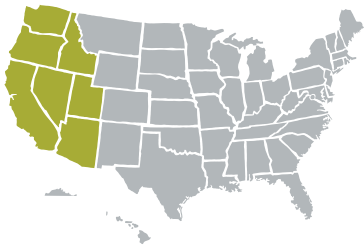
Tuition-free community college in

**Maine** was extended to two more graduating high school classes under the budget signed into law by Gov. Janet Mills. The Maine Department of Education and the Maine Community College System also announced that current and prospective community college students across the state have access to College and Career Success Coordinators to provide them with supports to assist with the transition to college.

**Massachusetts** Gov. Maura Healey signed into law a budget which allocates \$50 million toward free community college by next fall, including the governor's Mass Reconnect proposal for all residents over 25 who have yet to earn a degree and programs for students pursuing a nursing degree. The budget also includes a provision expanding eligibility for in-state tuition and state financial aid for Dreamers.

Four **New Jersey** community colleges — Atlantic Cape Community College, Mercer County Community College, Middlesex College, and Sussex County Community College — received \$40,000 from The New Jersey Council for the Humanities and Journalism + Design at The New School to fund tuition-free, noncredit certificates in community journalism at their institutions.

About 125,000 **New York** high school students received letters notifying them that they have been automatically accepted to the State University of New York's community college programs. The move is part of an effort to eliminate barriers toward higher education, Gov. Kathy Hochul's office said. The City University of New York recently announced its own plans to partner with the city's public school system and send letters to 65,000 graduating seniors, welcoming them to CUNY and inviting them to apply.



## PACIFIC REGION

**Arizona's** state budget, passed in May, allocated \$15 million toward funding dual enrollment college credits for high schoolers and \$500,000 to help train high school teachers for the programs.

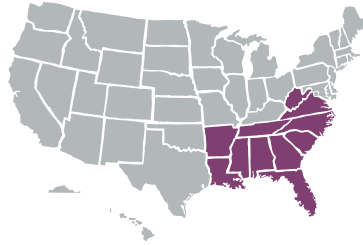
**California's** chancellor of community colleges, Dr. Sonya Christian, unveiled the system's Vision 2030 plan, which includes the implementation of in-state tuition rates for any student living up to 45 miles south of the U.S.-Mexican border and dual enrollment for every ninth-grade high school student.

Community college leaders across California are asking lawmakers to reconsider changes made in this year's state budget to how student housing projects are funded. As part of the 2023-24 budget agreement, the state is requiring community colleges to use local revenue bonds to pay for construction costs, which college leaders say jeopardizes their ability to build new affordable housing.

The **Oregon** Higher Education Coordinating Commission approved a change to community college funding which will reward colleges that enroll students from backgrounds underrepresented in higher education and help students progress toward certificates and degrees.

Oregon's 17 community colleges generated more than \$9 billion in annual economic impact for the state in the 2021-2022 fiscal year, according to a new report from the Oregon Community College Association. The analysis found

that one out of every 22 jobs in the state is supported by the activities of the community colleges and their students.



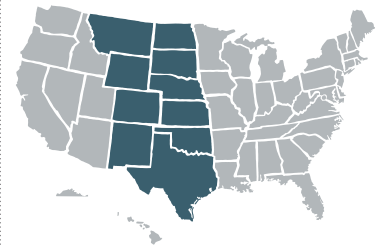
## SOUTHERN REGION

A record number of **Alabama** high school students are participating in dual enrollment classes with the Alabama Community College System. More than 27,000 Alabama high school students take dual enrollment, up 65% since 2015. The legislature approved a \$4.5 million increase in dual enrollment funding in the legislative session that ended in June, bringing the program to nearly \$30.7 million in total funding.

The **Kentucky** Community and Technical College System's Education First Initiative was called by Gov. Andy Beshear "a sea change in how we go about workforce development." Under the program, students join participating companies and work while also attending classes. Forty-five companies are participating in the Education First Initiative.

Four community colleges in eastern **North Carolina** are taking part in a new initiative to bridge educational opportunities for the growing Latino population. The "Train the East" partnership with Lenior, James Sprunt, Sampson, and Wayne Community colleges will provide full-time outreach to recruiters and success coaches and scholarships.

The **Tennessee** college-going rate rose 1.5 percent to 54.3 percent for the Class of 2022, according to a new report from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. It's the largest statewide increase since the launch of Tennessee Promise, a free community college program, in 2015.



## WESTERN REGION

**Colorado** Gov. Jared Polis and the Colorado Community College System launched Career Advance Colorado, which will prepare around 20,000 Coloradans for high skilled careers. It is building off the success of a similar program, Care Forward Colorado, which helped more than 3,000 Coloradans complete programs in health fields facing shortages.

**Texas** Gov. Greg Abbott signed into law a new funding model for community colleges that will tie the majority of their state allocations to performance-based measures. The new funding system, which comes with a \$683 million allocation in the state budget, takes effect Sept. 1.

The Kickstart **Wyoming's** Tomorrow Scholarship was created and funded by the Wyoming Legislature to help working adults obtain the skills and education necessary to reenter the workforce, move up in their current careers, or pursue new career paths. It offers up to \$1,800 per semester toward tuition at Wyoming's eight community colleges and the University of Wyoming.

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