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Maryland Community Colleges Boost Completions Six Straight Years
Associate Degrees Awarded Up by 47%; Certificates Awarded Up by 85%

Catonsville, MD, December 4, 2015 - Hundreds of faculty from community colleges statewide gathered today at the Maryland Association of Community Colleges’ (MACC) 6th annual Summit on Completion, to celebrate gains and collaborate further on successful community college completion strategies. MACC’s latest completion numbers, released today, show six consecutive years of gains, with dramatic increases in career certificates awarded. Attendees at the Completion Summit, held today at the Community College of Baltimore County, Catonsville campus, included top higher education thought leaders and policy makers.

“A successful partnership between MACC and the USM is a critical component to our future success as a state,” said Dr. Robert L. Caret, Chancellor, University System of Maryland (USM), in his keynote address. “Nearly one-third of newly enrolled undergraduate students at USM institutions transfer from community colleges.”

Workers who have completed a college degree or career certificate enjoy more stable employment and higher wages than workers with a high school degree or less. Lifetime earnings are nearly $1,000,000 higher for workers with a college degree, than for those with only a high school degree. Workers with only a high school diploma were twice as likely to be unemployed as those with a bachelor’s degree or higher, during the recent economic downturn.

Additionally, today’s employers need more workers with postsecondary education. By 2018, 63% of all jobs will require at least some training and education beyond high school, and those numbers will continue to rise.

“Six years of completion gains show that MACC’s completion strategies are effective,” said Dr. Bernie Sadusky, MACC Executive Director. “To build on our success, MACC hopes to work with USM and Maryland state agencies, such as the Department of Commerce, to leverage limited funding and provide the educational infrastructure Maryland needs to prepare its workforce for the future.”

About Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC)

At 16 Maryland community colleges, 23 campuses and more than 1000 learning sites across the state, 500,000 community college students annually pursue academic degrees, 130+ certifications in career and technical training, and diverse courses that refresh and develop career and life skills. Key partners in local economic development, Maryland community colleges deliver customized training designed to
meet immediate, local labor needs and ensure the availability of a skilled workforce to attract new businesses and employers. MACC is an advocate for the state’s community colleges and the educational needs of the students they serve. For more information about MACC and Maryland’s community colleges, visit www.mdacc.org or call (410) 974-8117.

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