Community College Students Assemble in Annapolis and Advocate for College Affordability
College Costs Burden Students

Annapolis, MD, February 10, 2016 – Community college students from counties at the farthest reaches of the state assembled in Annapolis this morning to rally and meet with their elected representatives to advocate for strong state support of community colleges. Several years of state funding cuts to Maryland’s community colleges have driven tuition increases, and caused mounting student debt.

“Community colleges are the largest workforce educator in the state,” said Dr. Bernie Sadusky, Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC). “Strong state funding is critical to our mission of preparing Maryland’s workforce for the skilled jobs of the future.”

A recent report by Georgetown University\(^1\) states that skilled jobs, those requiring education and training beyond high school, will make up 65% of all jobs in the economy by 2020. At current rates of postsecondary enrollment, Maryland’s skilled labor force is projected to fall short of meeting the needs of its labor market. Currently, there are 138,000 unfilled jobs in Maryland; much of the training and skills required for these open positions could be obtained at a community college.

About Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC)

Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) is an advocate for the state’s 16 community colleges and the educational needs of the almost 500,000 students they serve. Student Advocacy Day is organized by the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) to provide students with direct access to their legislators. For more information about MACC and Maryland’s community colleges, visit www.mdacc.org or call (410) 974-8117.

\(^1\) The Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, Recovery: Job Growth and Education Requirements Through 2020

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