

The Community College

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Community College History: The People's College

Community College 101

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PowerPoint by
Susan Lindahl
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The People's College

- 1779
- Thomas Jefferson and the concept of local control and public support
 - A Bill for the More Generalized Diffusion of Knowledge



The Morrill Act

- 1862--The Morrill Act (Land Grant Act) provided expansion of student access to public education
- 1890--The second Morrill Act – provided punitive action via withholding of funds to any state land grant college that denied admission based on race (caveat: state could provide separate education for minorities)



Community College Concept

- 1892
- William Rainey Harper proposed separating instruction at the University of Chicago into two divisions to provide education and educational options to more people and allow the university to focus on research



First Community College

- 1901
- Joliet Junior College was formally founded by Harper, establishing the first public junior college in the United States



California: Early Leader

- 1907
- The state of California created legislation that authorized high schools to offer post secondary courses and provided state and county funding for student access



Accountability

- 1917
- Adoption of Junior College Accreditation Standards by Western Commission



Student Recognition

- 1918
- Founding of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), Honor Society for two-year college students



National Association

- 1920
- Founding of American Association of Junior Colleges for technical, junior, and community colleges – now American Association of Community Colleges



First Journal

- 1930
- The first journal was published by the American Association of Junior Colleges
 - *The Community College Journal*



Increased Access

- 1944
- Major access was provided by the “floodgate” of The GI Bill of Rights, created to provide financial assistance for higher education to veterans of WWII



Junior to Community College

- 1947
- The Truman Commission Report recommended the term “community college” and noted that 50% of students could benefit from a college education.



Access and Diversity

- 1954
- Brown V. Board of Education – culminating with a U.S. Supreme Court decision on May 17, 1954: *"separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."*



Further Access

- 1965
- The Higher Education Act provided student aid legislation beyond the GI Bill. – several amendments to this act followed evolving into the Pell Grant Program that increased access to education through the growing number of community colleges.



Governance

- 1972
- Association of Community College Trustees – national organization for influence on public policy
www.acct.org



Accountability

- 1983—*A Nation at Risk*—“rising tide of mediocrity”—high school reform
- 1993—*The American Imperative: Higher Expectations for Higher Education*—higher education reform—“redesign of our learning systems to align our entire educational enterprise with the personal, civic, and work place needs of the 21st century.”



Focus on the Future

- 1988—First Commission on the Future of Community Colleges--
Building Communities: A Vision for a New Century
- 2011—Second Commission on the 21st Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges



Projects with Impact

- **2001—The Learning College Project**
- **2002—College & Career Transitions Initiative**
- **2003—Leading Forward**
- **2004—Achieving the Dream**
- **2009—Voluntary Framework of Accountability**
- **2010—Next Generation Learning Challenges**
- **2011—Completion by Design**



Generations of the CC

Generation 1: Extension of High School (Before 1930)

- Addition of grades 13 and 14 to high school

Generation 2: Junior College (1930-1950)

- Breaking away from the high school
- Slow growth in public 2-year colleges
- Increasing emphasis on general education, student services, and vocational education



Generations of the CC

Generation 3. Community College (1950-1970)

- Term “community college” introduced by the Truman Commission became popular
- States develop community college systems
- Dramatic growth in community colleges (almost 1 per week in mid- to late-1960s)
- Beginning of open door policy, admitting students regardless of academic record



Generations of the CC

Generation 4. Comprehensive Community College (1970 to mid-1980s)

- Broadened mission – comprehensive programs
- Increased emphasis on community service and non-credit programs
- Increased emphasis on non-traditional delivery
- Curriculum increasingly dominated by vocational-technical enrollments



Generations of the CC

Generation 5. Expansion as Higher Education (1980s to Present)

- Major role in undergraduate education in U.S.
- Nearly 50% of all minority students in higher ed. enroll
- Increased emphasis on remedial/developmental education
- Continued emphasis on vocational-technical education through multiple partnerships
- Renewed partnerships with secondary schools
- Access morphing into success



Community College Philosophy

- **Open-Door**
- **Comprehensive Programs**
- **Community-Based**
- **Student Centered**
- **Teaching Centered**
- **Accessibility**
- **Innovative**



Comprehensive Programs

- **Transfer/University Parallel**
- **Vocational/Technical**
- **Developmental/Remedial**
- **General Education**
- **Community Service/Continuing Education**
- **Student Services**

