

Strategic Planning

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a blue and white checkered shirt and a bright green backpack. The person is standing against a solid orange background. The text is overlaid on this image.

Finishing What They Started

Adults with some credits but no degree hold the keys to enrollment and equity.

DELCAN & CO. + DANIELLE DEL PLATO FOR THE CHRONICLE

Who Are They

- 39 Million in 2020 - 1 in 5 people in the US over the age of 18 (National Student Clearinghouse Research Center)
- 60% of these students were last enrolled at a CC
- Working adults who earned credits from multiple colleges
- Some College – No Degree – Carry Student Loan Debt
- Have on the job training and skills

Why Should We Care

- Narrow the equity gap.
 - Low-income and students of color
- College credentials improve job prospects
- Adult stop-outs will continue to grow and 18 year olds will continue to decline
- 6 out of 10 who re-enrolled received a credential within a year
- Health of Higher Ed may depend on re-engaging these students

How Do We Get Them Back?

- Focus on low wage earners with few credits to complete
- Tailor degrees to their specific needs. – Interdisciplinary/Continuing Studies
- Merge together job skills with completed credits – piecing together completion
- Allow students to test out of courses – CPL for job skills related to learning outcomes
- Students don't want to start over and re-take courses completed

How Do We Get Them Back?

- Flexible options, wraparound supports (childcare-transportation, etc)
- Options to get back to good academic standing
- Personal touch and nudging to return
- Do we welcome them and do they feel they belong at an older age

Questions

