



Monthly Themes

Each month of the #Together4PASSHE Advocacy Campaign, we will share messages and data around an important theme that helps promote the impact and value of a State System Education. Use your social networks to share these messages, data, and your own stories with state legislators.

- October 2021: **Contributions to the State**
- November 2021: **Student Affordability**
- December 2021: **Student Progression and Completion**
- January 2022: **Workforce Alignment**
- February 2022: **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**
- March 2022: **Student Access and Enrollment**
- April 2022: **Economic and Social Mobility**

December 2021: Student Progression and Completion

State System universities know what works to motivate students to successfully navigate their college experience. From emergency financial aid to wraparound student support services and more, university practices help State System students stay in college and complete their degrees at rates that consistently outperform similar institutions. And community college transfer students outperform students who enrolled directly from high school. In the coming decade though, a growing number of jobs within the state will require a bachelor's degree. To tackle this challenge, bold investment in the System is the surest way to enhance support for students and staff, help drive completion, and meet the state's educational attainment goals.

- For the 2020-21 academic year, State System universities conferred nearly 24,000 degrees and certificates in high-demand areas like STEM, health, business, and education. Over 760,000 degrees and certificates have been conferred since the inception of the System in 1983.
- As a result of Systemwide goal alignment and comprehensive planning, the State System consistently outperforms national 4-year public institutions with State System 2nd year retention at about 79%.
- State System 6-year graduation rates are also higher than the national 4-year public institution, averaging 60% compared to 51%.
- The average federal student loan 3-year cohort default rate for State System students is currently 5.8% compared to the national public 4-year at 5.4% with the national 4-year at 7.3%.
- On average, first-time State System students are covering almost 40% of their annual costs (tuition, fees, room, and board) through student loans (federal and private loans).
- Students transferring into a State System university from a Pennsylvania community college continues to be 12% of the new student population even during declining enrollment.
- Transfer students persist at State System universities at a higher rate than non-transfer students. In Fall 2021, the second-year persistence rate for transfer students was 5.2 percentage points higher than for non-transfers.

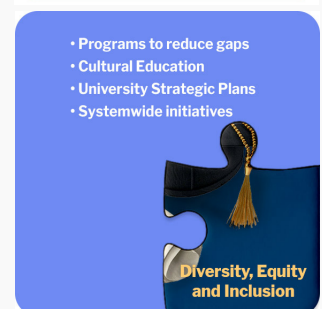
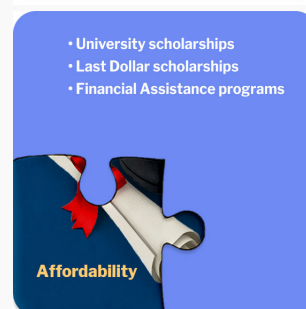
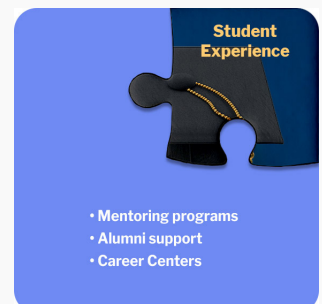
Supporting messages

- Pennsylvania is experiencing a chronic and severe "talent gap" that is starving employers of the educated workforce they need to remain competitive in Pennsylvania.
- Today 60% of Pennsylvania jobs require workers with some higher education, while only 50.7% of Pennsylvania adults have some higher education.
- The talent gap exists across economic sectors: from trades and services through health care, agribusiness, financial services, IT, advanced manufacturing, energy, education, and other areas.

- The talent gap is growing: between 2020 and 2030 the Commonwealth will need to close the gap and award 5.5% more associate's degrees, 8.1% more bachelor's degrees, 15.7% more master's degrees, 6% more doctoral degrees, and 4% more postsecondary nondegree credentials.
- For State System universities to contribute their current share of credentials toward closing the state's talent gap, they will need to annually award 2,000 more bachelor's degrees and 1,200 more master's degrees. (As of 2019-20, they awarded just over 17,000 bachelor's and 5,000 master's annually.)
- Unless the talent gap is filled (which can only be achieved by improving the educational attainment level of low- and middle-income, underrepresented, and adult workers) the Commonwealth will be unable to fill the jobs necessary for economic growth.

December 2021 Poster Graphic

STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVES



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