

Arizona's Community Colleges

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The Role of AC4

- AC4 works collaboratively to form partnerships across institutions, leverage resources and best practices and engage collectively in enhancing opportunities for students.
- Three Major Goals
 - Expand access to postsecondary credentials
 - Increase transfer and completion of associates degrees and certificates
 - Improve alignment between college programs and workforce needs





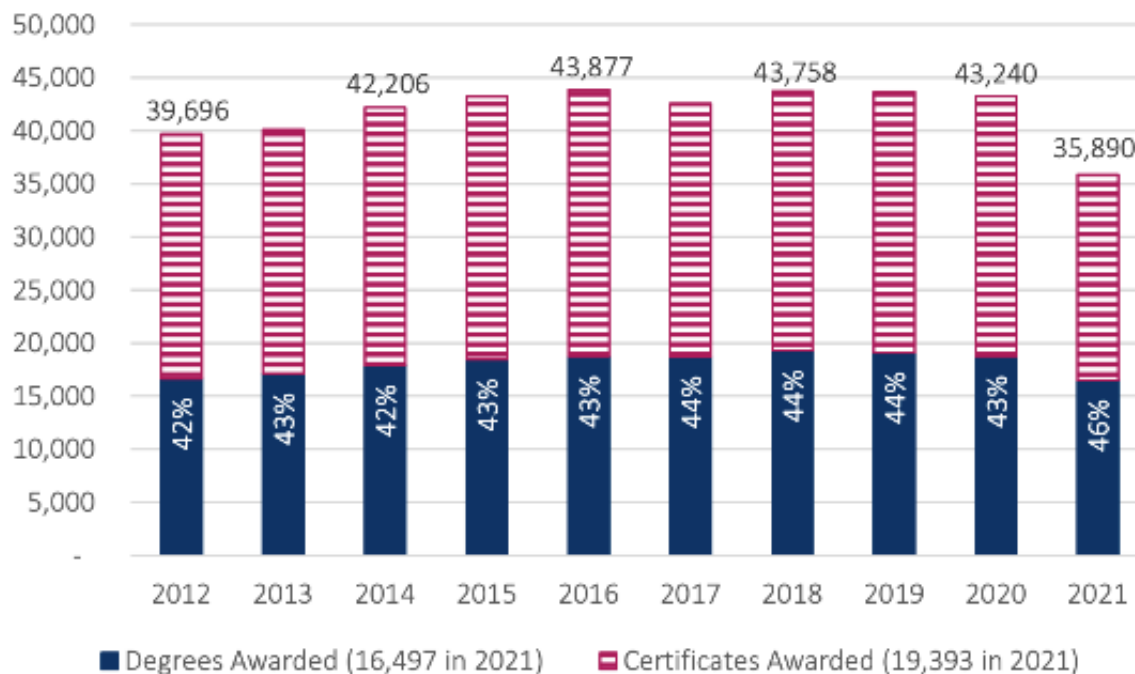
Who We Serve

- Arizona's community colleges serve over 240,000 students each year
- Over 31,000 students participated in early college (dual enrollment) programs
- 48% of students are members of an underserved racial/ethnic group
- Nearly 50% are over first-generation college attendees
- Almost three-quarters of students are currently in the workforce



Degrees and Certificates

Degrees and Certificates Awarded



- Despite near-term effects of the pandemic, Arizona's Community Colleges persisted in awarding degrees and certificates
- 46% of credentials were Associates Degrees
- 54% of credentials were direct workforce certificate programs



Degrees and Certificates

- Over 10,000 community college students transfer to in-state public universities
- 72% of full-time transfer students graduate *on time* from Arizona's public universities
- Arizona's community colleges rank 5th in the country in number of degrees and certificates awarded by 2-year colleges



Economic Impact of Community Colleges



- Nationwide Americans owe over \$1.48 trillion in student loan debt
 - Student loan debt negatively affects the rate of home ownership and other significant economic markers
 - Affordability of college degrees and workforce credentials is critical to continuing to grow Arizona's economy
- Arizona's community colleges are cost effective, student focuses and aligned with the state's employer needs



- Community Colleges are a critical economic engine in rural areas
- Reskilling workers is primary to our mission
- Building a green energy future in rural Arizona requires investments now



Employers Come to Us to Solve Workforce Problems





Because We Change
Lives

- Former BNSF Worker
- Future Cyber Security Professionals
- Able to work in rural Arizona





Thank You



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