

## **Vermont Legislative Research Shop**

## **Higher Education: Increasing Access and Retention of Students**

As public thinking about higher education shifted from seeing it as a public benefit to a private benefit, students saw coinciding increase in their share of the costs.

As a result, students and their families have increased their share of the cost of higher education from about 35% in the late 1970s to 48% in the late 1990s. Between 1990 and 1998, for example, tuition and fees as a component of higher education revenue rose from \$44 billion to \$71.8 billion, an increase of \$27.8 billion

Foundation, p. 6, 2009) without improving at the expense of the quality of education and accessibility. ...

Nearly 58,000 working age adults — 18 percent of those in the workforce — have already earned some college credit. By focusing first on these residents, officials and educators should be able to make relatively rapid progress toward increasing the state's college attainment rates (Lumina Foundation, p.113, 2009).

To gain a clearer understanding of the state of education in Vermont, Table 1 presents educational attainment by county for Vermont.

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**Table 1:** Percentage of young adults (ages 25 34) with a two or four year degree by County for Vermont

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loans are awarded to students based upon their predicted future income, not upon their current family economic situation. This makes the playing ground more equal for students who have economic barriers to higher education. Students have the option to pay yearly with a 15% discount, or

secondary students by providing additional support. (http://www.ncsl.org/programs/educ/CollegePrepProg.htm#StateFunded). <sup>3</sup>

New York's Pre Collegiate Preparation Programs provides support services and programming to serve students who are at risk throughout New York State. The program focuses on utilizing collaborative relationships with higher education institutions, community based organizations, and businesses. (http://www.ncsl.org/programs/educ/CollegePrepProg.htm#StateFunded) 4

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This report was prepared in response to a request from Representative Kesha Ram by Emelie Bailey, Anna Isaacson, and Laura Eddy under the supervision of Professor Anthony Gierzynski on February 18, 2009.

Disclaimer: This report has been compiled by undergraduate students at the University of Vermont under the supervision of Professor Anthony Gierzynski. The material contained in the report does not reflect the official policy of the University of Vermont.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> More information about Florida's College Reach Out Program can be found at http://studentservices.fgcu.edu/CROP/. "

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> More information about New York's Pre Collegiate Preparation Programs can be found at <a href="http://www.highered.nysed.gov/kiap/PCPPU/home.html">http://www.highered.nysed.gov/kiap/PCPPU/home.html</a>.