Supporting Students in Postsecondary Education

SREB

Presented by: Stevie L. Lawrence II, Ph.D.,
Vice President for Postsecondary Education, SREB

Advancing Postsecondary Education

- Over the years, SREB's postsecondary agenda has worked to improve the social and economic vitality of the SREB region, by convening groups around the concept of:
  - College Affordability
  - the Academic Common Market
  - Regional Compact Program (RCP)
  - Works collaboratively to establish comparable national standards for interstate postsecondary distance education through NC SARA

Advancing Postsecondary Education

To ensure that we continue to provide educational access and equity, additionally, the Office of Postsecondary Education in the last three years has:
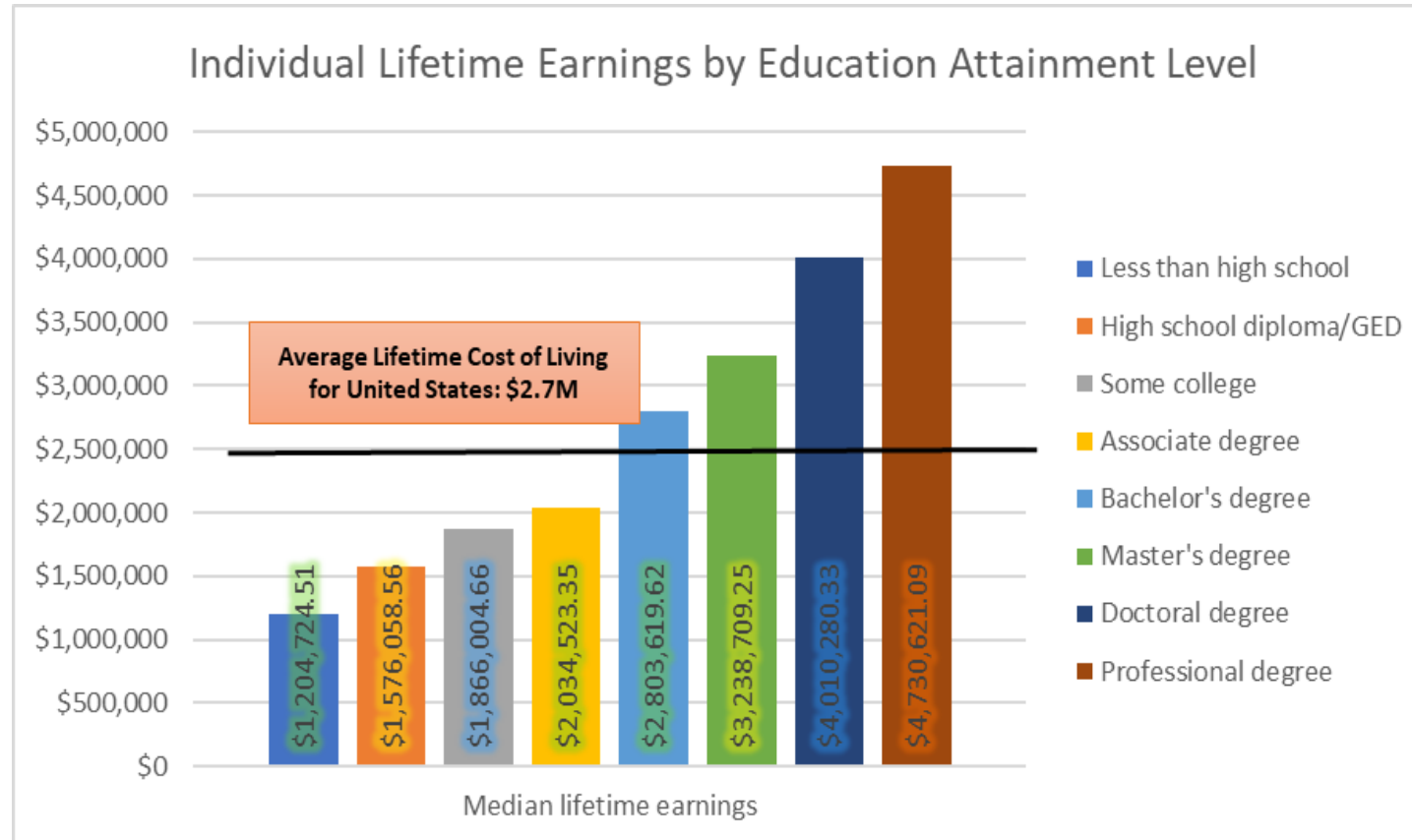
- Established a Student Success Advisory Council
- Created an HBCU/MSI Collaborative

Defining Student Success:

SREB defines student success as increased college access and completion rates for postsecondary credentials that lead to higher wages for adults in the SREB region.

Why is Postsecondary Student Success Important?

Individual Lifetime Earnings by Education Attainment Level

Average Lifetime Cost of Living for United States: $2.7M

- Less than high school — $1,204,724.51
- High school diploma/GED — $1,576,058.56
- Some college — $1,866,004.66
- Associate degree — $2,034,523.35
- Bachelor's degree — $2,803,619.62
- Master's degree — $3,238,709.25
- Doctoral degree — $4,010,280.33
- Professional degree — $4,730,621.09

Median lifetime earnings

What SREB believes:

- Student success is a focused effort on student retention, progression and graduation.
- Student success in postsecondary education relies on readiness, which means being prepared to succeed in college-level studies.

A Focus on Student Success

- Initiated an HBCU-MSI Course-Sharing Consortium
- Connecting Education & Workforce Data
- Building relationship to support regional student success focused work.

Panelists

Dr. Taffye Benson Clayton

Associate Provost & Vice President for Inclusion & Diversity at Auburn University

- Tasked with expanding Auburn's diversity and inclusion footprint within the institution and nationally.

- Known nationally for her presentation on faculty diversity recruitment and retention, integrating diversity and inclusion in higher education institutions, strategically positioning diversity and inclusion, and translating corporate diversity and inclusion promising practices into the higher education context.

Panelists

Scott Jenkins

Strategy Director, State Policy- Lumina Foundation

- Lumina is an independent, private foundation in Indianapolis that is committed to making opportunities for learning beyond high school available to all.
- In his role, he leads the development and advancement of the foundation's state policy agenda.

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Panelists

Dr. Melva Williams

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

- Achieved several historic enrollments for the Southern-Shreveport Campus.
- Has worked to increase student success outcomes for the Southern University System and the State of Louisiana.
- Co-Founder of the Higher Education Leadership Foundation

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Panelist

Dr. Glen Cannon
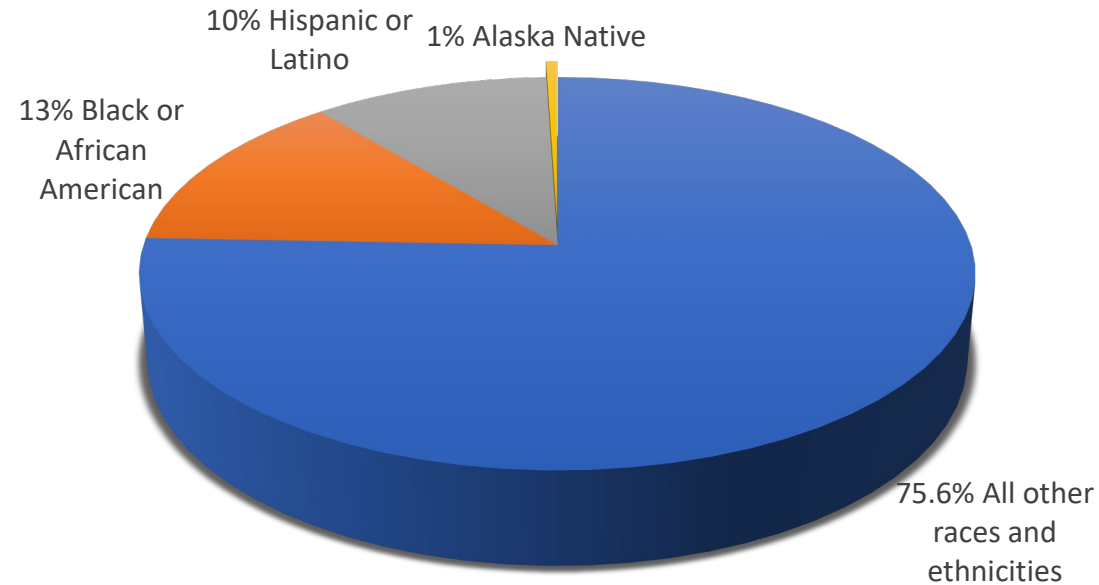
President of Gwinnett Technical College

- Serves as the third president of Gwinnett Technical College.
- Led Gwinnett Tech to record growth with a 30% increase in enrollment since 2014.
- Through the combined mission of credit academic programs, adult education, and business and industry training, the College serves more than 22,000 students each year.

Supporting Students in Higher Education

- Describe how your campuses defines student success, did the COVID-19 pandemic change this definition and philosophy, if so, how?

- As America needs more well-defined paths to learning and success after high school, how is the Lumina Foundation ensuring that more students are completing a postsecondary credential of value?

Postsecondary Completion Data for the SREB Region 2015-2019

Source: U.S. Department of Education Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Graduation Rates File, 2015 to 2019, and Directory File, 2015 to 2019

Supporting Students in Higher Education

- Considering the data presented, in your respective roles, how are you focused on increasing postsecondary credential completion for those demographic groups that are not obtaining credentials after high school at an acceptable rate?

Bridging the Gap:
Access to Postsecondary Education

- How can higher education stakeholders(both internal and external) increase access to postsecondary education?

Structures of Student Support

- What has proven to be the greatest support structure for enhancing student success from your perspective?

Supporting Students in Higher Education

Often, nonacademic barriers such as:

- food
- housing insecurity
- mental health issues

impact student success outcomes, but community college students may more often face additional challenges such as lack of:

- Transportation
- childcare

How has your institution addressed these issues? Do you think additional supports are required in these areas? If so, what are they?

Diversity & Equity in Student Success

Historically black colleges and universities:

- Make up only 10% of postsecondary institutions in the nation.

- As this is true, they graduate 20% of Black students, with four-year degrees.

Understanding these statistics, how could this institutional sector work to experience even greater student success outcomes, that ultimately lead to diversifying the workforce?

HBCU Map

Key
STATE WITH HBCUs
STATE WITHOUT HBCUs
HBCU LOCATION

U.S. Virgin Islands

Supporting Students in Higher Education

Explain the necessity of diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives within higher education, and how they impact student success.

Reflection Questions

- How do you define student success in postsecondary education in your state? How is it achieved?

- What do you believe are common barriers for postsecondary completion throughout the Southeast?

- How can you think more systemically about lowering the cost of college, to eliminate it as a barrier to enrollment and completion?

- Can you think of an example of how workforce agencies have worked optimally with a postsecondary system or institution to supply skilled workers for in-demand career fields?

- What are creative ways to achieve greatest access to postsecondary education?