Community Conversations to Explore
Pathways to Prosperity:
What is Needed for a Successful Career?
Why Are We Talking About Pathways to Prosperity?

• An increasing number of jobs require a postsecondary credential, yet enrollment is actually dropping!

• Together, we have a unique opportunity to create a region where every student finds a pathway to prosperity.

• All Central Texas residents need a sense of “the possible.”

• How can we mobilize around communities to help all people realize their greatest possibilities?
Goals for Today’s Conversation

• Share information and learn about barriers limiting student success beyond high school
• Explore important connections between education and pathways to career success
• Identify others who can benefit from these conversations
Conversation Guidelines

• Listen to learn: Make space for different perspectives
• Treat each other with respect
• Help make sure everyone has a chance to share
• Assume good intentions
• Your questions are valuable
Context – Data Map

2/3 of jobs by 2020 will require some postsecondary credential, whether that’s a workforce certificate, two- or four-year degree.

42% of Texas young adults have some kind of postsecondary credential.

14% of our low-income Central Texas students complete a postsecondary credential within six years of leaving high school.

12% Young adults without a postsecondary credential within six years of leaving high school have just a 12% chance of earning a living wage.
What’s Our Statewide Goal?

60×30TX
Enrollment Rates for Both Low Income and Non-Low Income High School Grads Decreasing

Percent of Central Texas High School Graduates Enrolled in Texas Higher Education Institutions Within One Year, by Income Status

- Low Income
- Non-Low Income

Source: E3 Alliance analysis of high school graduation and higher education enrollment data at the UT Austin ERC
Higher Education Enrollment for Central Texas Low Income Students Lags Behind Texas

Percent of High School Graduates Enrolled in Higher Ed In Texas Within One Year, by Income Status

- **CTX - Non-Low Income**
- **Texas - Non-Low Income**
- **CTX - Low Income**
- **Texas - Low Income**

Source: E3 Alliance analysis of high school graduation and higher education enrollment data at the UT Austin ERC
Overall Trends

• High School graduation rates have increased rapidly over the last decade, and gaps are closing

• Completion rates for those students who have enrolled in any postsecondary institution are rising

• Yet higher education enrollment rates have dropped for all student groups

➢ We have no way to help more students reach Pathways to Prosperity – or meet our 60x30TX goal – without changing this trend!
## What do Texans think?

### Key takeaways from survey data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>PERCENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student loan debt is a major problem</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of college education is equal or greater than cost, over lifetime</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A postsecondary credential leads to higher income</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A postsecondary credential leads to a better quality of life</td>
<td>87</td>
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A certificate or degree beyond high school leads to a higher income.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERCENT</th>
<th>87%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat agree</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat disagree</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>

Conversation #1

Why is this issue important to you?

How has it affected you, your family or the people you care about?
Conversation #2

1. Explore each of the three panels on the Data Map, which represents “old stories” and “new stories”
2. Use your own knowledge, lived experiences, and expertise to weigh in
Story: Pathways, Cost and Success for All
Assets and Resources

Assets are those things people have or use to help themselves and each other.

Community assets can include:

• People
• Organizations
• Traditions
• Places
• Policies and Programs
Conversation #3

What assets are you aware of that exist in your community?
Conversation #4

What specific actions you think are important to move forward?
Next Steps

• Host your own conversation with your own DIY Starter Kit
• What can you do to help support students and families in your community?
• Take advantage of resources, such as www.E3Alliance.org/conversations
• Please like and share @E3Alliance on Twitter and Facebook.
Thank You!

E3Alliance.org