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

What's Our Statewide Goal?

60x30TX
Enrollment Rates for Both Low Income and Non-Low Income High School Grads Decreasing

Higher Education Enrollment for Central Texas Low Income Students Lags Behind Texas

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
- Student loan debt is a major problem: 79%
- Value of college education is equal or greater than cost, over lifetime: 60%
- A postsecondary credential leads to higher income: 87%
- A postsecondary credential leads to a better quality of life: 87%

Survey Data
A certificate or degree beyond high school leads to a higher income.

PERCENT
Strongly agree: 58%
Somewhat agree: 29%
Somewhat disagree: 7%
Strongly disagree: 4%
Don’t know: 2%

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. #PathwaysToProsperity #CTXed