

Community Conversations to Explore

Pathways to Prosperity: What is Needed for a Successful Career?

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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?

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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

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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

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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

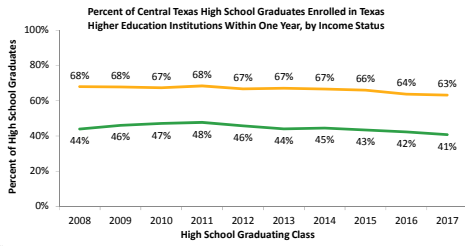
12%
Young adults without a postsecondary credential within six years of leaving high school have just a 12% chance of earning a living wage.

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What’s Our Statewide Goal?

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

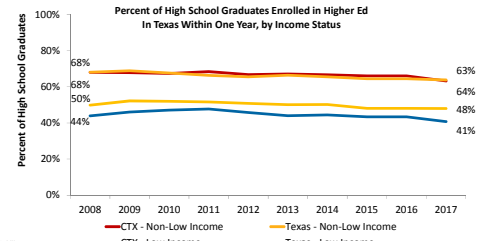


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Source: E3 Alliance analysis of high school graduation and higher education enrollment data at the UT Austin ERC



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



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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!*

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What do Texans think?

Key takeaways from survey data

	PERCENT
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

Henson, J., & Blank, J., (2019) WGU higher education poll. Strategic Research Associates, LLC.

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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

87%

Henson, J., & Blank, J., (2019) WGU higher education poll. Strategic Research Associates, LLC.

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Conversation #1

Why is this issue important to you?

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

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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

