

**SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROJECT:  
A BACKGROUND STUDY BASED ON SECONDARY RESEARCH**

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## **SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROJECT: A BACKGROUND STUDY BASED ON SECONDARY RESEARCH**

There is an initiative within the counties of the central Susquehanna valley area comprised of citizens who envision a community college in Sunbury that will increase access to higher education for area citizens, resulting in numerous and far reaching benefits including economic stimulation, community revitalization, youth retention and workforce development.

This report is a summary of secondary research presented to substantiate the need for further primary research that would lead to the creation of a Susquehanna Valley Community College.

### **DATA AND REPORTS**

***The governor’s executive order.*** Governor Rendell issued a directive for a commission to report on “strategies for higher education to increase retention through the first two years of post-secondary education”. The executive order states that out of every 100 high school freshmen only 77 will graduate by senior year. Forty-seven will begin college and only 28 will receive degrees. He further indicates the desire of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is to equip it’s workforce with skills of ‘world-class quality’ that will result in prospering citizens and industry within Pennsylvania.<sup>1</sup>

***Final report of the commission on college and career success.***

This report is most compelling. It is replete with assertions and recommendations for the creation and evolution of an educational paradigm that will equip the 21<sup>st</sup> century PA workforce with skill sets that can be effectively delivered through an alliance between k-12 programs, postsecondary 2 and 4 year institutions and regional businesses.<sup>2</sup>

***The Brookings Institute Reports.*** The results of comprehensive research regarding the condition of rural Pennsylvania was published 2003 by The Brookings Institute. In ‘Back to Prosperity: A Competitive Agenda for Renewing Pennsylvania’ rural Pennsylvania is summarized as a region struggling economically for the following reasons: a lack of inter-municipal coordination and cooperation, a changing employment base and a dearth of jobs paying a living wage, out-migration of young people, an aging population, the need for workforce development, and an inequitable local tax structure. Recommendations for countering these trends are presented in the executive summary. The second recommendation urges Pennsylvania to ‘invest heavily in education and training, promote development in key select industries that promote the revitalization of older communities.’<sup>3</sup>

The Brookings Institute revisited Pennsylvania to evaluate responsiveness to the recommendations. The March 2007 report, ‘Committing to Prosperity: Moving Forward on the Agenda to Renew Pennsylvania’ urges persistence and deeper commitment to systematically invest in education, life sciences, food processing and business and finance since these are the commonwealths leading industry clusters. At the forefront of developing the workforce within these clusters is the community college and thus funding has been increasing.<sup>4</sup>

***Keystone Research Center.*** Stephen Herzenberg and Mark Price of the Keystone Research Center published ‘The State of Rural Pennsylvania’ and report that in rural Pennsylvania for every 100 adults ages 25-64 only 44 have more than a high school degree and only 20 out of 100 have a college degree. By contrast 56% of urban Pennsylvanians have more than a high school degree and 33%

have a college degree. Causes for rural Pennsylvanians trailing in educational attainment include: inaccessibility to postsecondary education, transfer payment income levels and cultural attitudes. The same reasons hold for the out-migration of rural youth with higher education. <sup>5</sup>

The report further emphasizes that rural Pennsylvania must enter the globally competitive economy through investing in education and skills, and growing jobs with family sustaining wages linked with key industries as the primary components for developing regional prosperity.

The second recommendation by The Keystone Research Center is to:

Become a national model in rural education and skill development for the 21<sup>st</sup> century ...invest in a statewide community and technical college infrastructure that makes two years of postsecondary education accessible and affordable throughout rural Pennsylvania.<sup>6</sup>

**US Department of Education.** The third goal of the Strategic Plan of the US Department of Education for Years 2007-2012 is to “Ensure the accessibility, affordability, and accountability of higher education, and better prepare students and adults for employment and future learning”. The seventh strategy implemented by the US Department of Education to achieve this goal is to ‘promote and disseminate information regarding promising practices in community colleges.’ <sup>7</sup>

**Drop Out rates.** Northumberland, Lycoming and Schuylkill counties were three out of fourteen PA counties with drop out rates higher than the state average. (see page 16) The proposed location of a SVCC is within Northumberland County. Southern Lycoming and the northwest corner of Schuylkill County are also within the community college service area.

**Distances.** Figure 1 shows driving distances to Luzerne County Community College range from 51 minutes from Bloomsburg to 1 hour 21 minutes from Sunbury. Driving distances to Harrisburg Area Community College range from 58 minutes from Middleburg to 1 hour 14 minutes from Lewisburg. Commutes for area residents who attend either Harrisburg Area Community College or Luzerne County community college require 1 hour 20 minutes to 3 hours for round trip travel.

**Figure 1** (Data collected from [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com))

DISTANCES AND CUMMUTING TIMES TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES FOR CENTRAL SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY RESIDENTS							
County	County Seat	Sunbury		Luzerne CCC, Nanticoke		Harrisburg Area CC	
		Distance	Commuting Time	Distance	Commuting Time	Distance	Commuting Time
Northumberland	Sunbury			67 miles	1 hour 23 minutes	53 miles	1 hour 5 minutes
Montour	Danville	14 miles	23 minutes	54 miles	1 hour		
Union	Lewisburg	12 miles	18 minutes	68 miles	1 hour 18 minutes	61 miles	1 hour 14 minutes
Snyder	Middleburg	16 miles	26 minutes			46 miles	58 minutes
Columbia	Bloomsburg	23 miles	37 minutes	42 miles	51 minutes		
Schuylkill	Pottsville	48 miles	1 hour 7 minutes	49 miles	58 minutes	56 miles	1 hour 6 minutes
Lycoming	Williamsport	35 miles	48 minutes	66 miles	1 hour 29 minutes		
	<b>Towns</b>						
Northumberland	Mt. Carmel	23 miles	36 minutes	59 miles	1 hour 10 minutes	60 miles	1 hour 6 minutes
Union	Milton	13 miles	23 minutes	64 miles	1 hour 12 minutes		
Snyder	Selinsgrove	6 miles	13 minutes	72 miles	1 hour 3 minutes	47 miles	55 minutes

Schuylkill	Frackville	41 miles	59 minutes	43 miles	51 minutes	59 miles	1 hour 1 minute
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The Pennsylvania Board of Education states in Pennsylvania Code 35.1a. “The policy of the Board is to encourage and facilitate the development of community colleges within reasonable commuting distances of every citizen of this Commonwealth.”<sup>8</sup>

**Tuition costs at area colleges.** Excessive costs prohibit many in the central Susquehanna valley area from pursuing education beyond high school. The tuition rate at Harrisburg Area Community College is \$2,340 and Luzerne County Community College is roughly \$2,880 per year for in-county residents. By comparison it is \$5,038 at Bloomsburg University, \$11,250 at Penn College, \$29,330 at Susquehanna University, and \$37,934 at Bucknell University. The affordability of community colleges increases access to higher education for local lower income individuals. *(list of college tuition websites on page 14)*

**Workforce development.** Pennsylvania community colleges are integrally involved in educating a developing workforce in high priority occupations. The regions of the Commonwealth are targeted and the workforce investment areas are identified. – Central Pa is not included subsequent to the fact that there is not an existing community college to deliver services.<sup>9</sup> Furthering the blight is the lack of state investment in a community college infrastructure that covers geographically underserved areas. Compared to the national average tuition costs at Pennsylvania community colleges is 50% higher. These obstacles prevent low income working adults from gaining the skills and training to improve their earning potential.<sup>10</sup>

**Annual and lifetime earnings.** According to the US Census Bureau workers with an Associates Degree earn nearly twice that of those without a high school diploma.<sup>11</sup>

**Figure 2**

The national Census Bureau has documented the value-added to income with completion of an associate degree. In the most recent Current Population Survey, associate degree holders earned, on average, 30 percent more per year than high school graduates (Figure 8).

**Figure 8**  
**Annual Earnings by Highest Degree Earned**  
**for Adults 18 and Over With Earnings**

Not a High School Graduate	\$16,124
High School Graduate Only	\$22,895
Some College, no degree	\$24,804
<b>Associate's Degree</b>	<b>\$29,872</b>
Bachelor's Degree	\$40,478
Master's Degree	\$51,183
Professional Degree	\$95,148
Doctorate	\$77,445
Overall Average Earnings	\$29,514

Associate degree holders earned more than individuals who attended college but failed to graduate. The average lifetime earnings for associate's degree holders is presently estimated to be \$1,054,420 (Figure 9).

**Figure 9**  
**Estimated Lifetime Earnings by Educational Level**

Not a High School Graduate	\$547,880
High School Graduate Only	\$809,920
Some College, no degree	\$829,120
<b>Associate's Degree</b>	<b>\$1,054,420</b>
Bachelor's Degree	\$1,488,960
Master's Degree	\$1,853,280
Professional Degree	\$3,309,960
Doctorate	\$2,707,400

**A SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

President George W. Bush, remarked at South Arkansas Community College, April 6, 2004:

*The community colleges are very well adapted to meeting the needs of local employers. They're flexible, they're able to say to an employer, 'What do you need?' and 'We'll educate the people for the kind of workers you need.'*

(found at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/04/20040406-6.html>)

**Pennsylvania law for community colleges.** Chapter 35 of the Pennsylvania Code establishes the general provisions for community colleges within the Commonwealth.<sup>12</sup>

**Total population served.** Figure 3 provides a sum of county populations within the access area of a community college located in the geographic center of Sunbury. An estimated 250,000 residents would be served.

**Figure 3** Estimate of Total Population Served by a Community College in Sunbury

County	Population
Montour	18236
<b>Northumberland</b>	<b>94556</b>
Union	41624
Snyder	37546
Columbia	$(64151)\frac{1}{3} \approx 20000$
Lycoming	$(117668)\frac{1}{3} \approx 40000$
Schuylkill	$(150336)\frac{1}{6} \approx 20000$

<b>TOTAL ESTIMATE OF POPULATION SERVED BY A CSVCC</b>			
			271962
<b>**All data for this table located at:</b>			
<a href="http://www.pacounties.org/commissioners/lib/commissioners/county_image_map.htm">http://www.pacounties.org/commissioners/lib/commissioners/county_image_map.htm</a>			

**Prospective students.** Dual enrollment students from regional high schools, cyber schools and those that are home schooled. Two year degree candidates, non traditional students seeking upgraded skills in credit and non credit courses, certification candidates, and training for regional employers. Probably the best indicator for the first year of enrollment would be the current number of students within the four county area who are currently attending a community college. Figure 4 indicates that about 1000 students could potentially be enrolled in the first year. It is not clear whether the students are attending a satellite or main campus.

**Figure 4** 2006 COUNTY ENROLLMENT FIGURES

	<b>County</b>	<b># Students Enrolled</b>
	Columbia	412
	Lycoming	24
	Montour	64
	<b>Northumberland</b>	<b>440</b>
	Snyder	76
	Union	13
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT</b>		<b>1029</b>

**All data located in the "Geographic Representation" Excel workbook at:**

<http://www.pdehighered.state.pa.us/higher/cwp/view.asp?a=133&pm=1&Q=123070&higherNav=|2928|6259|>

Figure 5 shows the US Department of Education longitudinal study identifying reasons that affect the selection of a first postsecondary institution.

**Figure 5**

**Reasons for selecting first postsecondary institution among spring 2002 high school sophomores who first attended a 2-year postsecondary institution between 2002 and 2006**

<b>Reason for CC Choice</b>	<b>Percent of Respondents</b>
Location	74.0
Cost	61.9
Program of study	42.3
Reputation	28.8
Personal or family reasons	21.7
Another reason	16.0

NOTE: Reasons for selecting first postsecondary institution are not mutually exclusive; respondents may have reported multiple reasons.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Education Longitudinal Study of 2002 (ELS:2002), "Second Follow-up, 2006."

**Dual enrollment, early, middle college.** Dual enrollment is the most widely applied method for engaging college ready and at risk high school juniors and seniors at the college level in for credit

college courses. Students can complete their first two years of college by the time they graduate from high school.<sup>13</sup>

Dr. Susan Bickford of the Danville Area School District has articulated dual enrollment programs with colleges in the Pittsburgh area. She was awarded a \$13,000 grant the first year and a \$26,000 grant the second of the program to cover equipment and books.

**Prospective academic programs.** To avoid duplication of other regional post secondary two year degree granting educational programs the following list comprises subject areas that are either not offered or represent the greatest workforce needs in the central PA region, based on secondary research. The subject areas offered in this list may be for credit and/or non-credit. It is expected that based on the industry clusters and industry partnerships in the central PA region, the academic programs would align accordingly.

Accounting  
Adult Literacy  
Agribusiness  
Agriscience  
Business Administration  
Biotechnology  
Civics  
Computer Forensics  
Criminal Forensics  
Computer Technologies (Database Development, Networking, Programming, Web Design)  
Cyber Security  
Digital Forensics  
Early Childhood Education  
Energy Source Management  
Entrepreneurship  
Environmental Conservation  
Food Processing Management  
Health Care (Dental assisting, laboratory technician, LPN, RN, Radiology tech, Pharmacy technician, radiology technician, respiratory therapist)  
Hospitality Management  
Information Science  
Information Technology  
International Business  
Law Enforcement  
Math Competency  
Nanofabrication  
Nanotechnology  
Non Profit Organization Management  
Outdoor Leadership  
Pre-Engineering  
Urban/Rural Revitalization/Rehabilitation  
Eco-Tourism

Training would be designed for regional employers.

Pennsylvania Code Chapter .335. Subchapter A. provides general provisions for community college courses.<sup>14</sup>

**Accreditation.** The accreditation process normally begins after the second year of operations through an agency like Middle States. However an 'umbrella' accreditation can begin at start up. through an articulation agreement credits can transfer from a two year to a four year college.<sup>15</sup>

**Facilities.** To date there are two properties that have been visited:  
The Thomas Alva Edison School<sup>16</sup>  
The Teen Challenge Institute on Snyderstown Road (RR 3)<sup>17</sup>

**Tuition.** Per student operating cost is the basis for determining the tuition amount. According to PA Code 35.29, student tuition may not exceed 1/3 of the budgeted annual operating cost of the college.<sup>18</sup> As stated previously the tuition rates for HACC and LCCC are \$2340 and \$2,880. A reasonable starting tuition for a Susquehanna Valley CC might be somewhat below this range.

**Funding.** The funding formula for a community college is based on the budgeted annual college operating expense per student. Funding from student tuition cannot exceed 1/3 of the budgeted annual college operating expenses. The state supplies 1/3 and the authorized sponsor provides 1/3. Pennsylvania's community college budget funding level for 2006 was \$264.7 million.<sup>19</sup> However, this does not take into account federal funding, grants, fundraising campaigns and philanthropy. The average community college funding comes from the following sources:

**Revenue Sources (public colleges)<sup>20</sup>**

State funds: 38%  
Tuition and fees: 20%  
Local funds: 19%  
Federal funds: 7%  
Other: 16%

**Grants.** Grants will be a source of funding that will require dedicated mining. Initially this is an arduous task, however the grant awards are rewarding. Applications for both federal and state grants can be found at the following websites.

**Federal Grants:**

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) <http://www.fipse.aed.org/>  
US Dept. of Labor- <http://www.doleta.gov/business/Community-BasedJobTrainingGrants.cfm>

**Land Grants**

USDA grants

<http://grants.gov>

<http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edpicks.jhtml?src=In>

**State Grants:**

[www.pde.edu](http://www.pde.edu)

<http://egrants.ed.state.pa.us/>

<http://www.project720.org/content/view/36/117/>

Community Education Council Grant

New Economy Technology Scholarship

PA Higher Education Foundation – Nursing Education Grants

Further exploration of grants and funding would be pursued following sponsorship.

**Stakeholders.** Stakeholders include central Susquehanna Valley students and their families, community college faculty, staff and administrators, employers, retail and service businesses, secondary schools, four year colleges, volunteer seeking agencies and the Pa. Dept. of Education. In short the entire community that is within the service area extending to the citizens of the Commonwealth of PA.

**Sponsorship.** A constituent driven initiative proposes the concept of a community college to potential sponsors. The process for establishing a community college begins with a sponsoring local government or school district or a combination of both. A sponsor must be a tax collecting authority.<sup>21</sup>

Consideration should be given regarding a four county cooperative sponsorship combining the municipal governments and the school districts within them. Doing so would distribute the local 1/3 operating cost funding portion among Montour, Northumberland, Union and Snyder counties.

**Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce.** The alliance of businesses in the four counties of Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union serves as an example of a cooperative for the improvement of the central Susquehanna valley. A Susquehanna Valley Community College linked with The Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce would become an integral partnership for identifying high priority workforce needs and the educational programs required to equip and develop a regional workforce.<sup>22</sup>

**Contacts and correspondence.** Some noteworthy contacts that have been made are: Michael Dotts, Pennsylvania Department of Education;

Jesse Woodring, Mayor of Sunbury;

Merle Phillips, State Representative;

John Gordner, Pennsylvania State Senator;

Terrell Halaska, United States Department of Education;

Skip Weider, President of the Forum for Pennsylvania Heartland;

Keri Albright, United Way –personal, public endorsement of the concept;

Christopher Carney, US Congressman, through his Williamsport office. The case worker for the SVCCP is Rebecca Brosious.

Dave Hall, Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce

Dawn Gessel, GSVCC, Economic Development Coordinator

Jay Lemons, President of Susquehanna University

Charlie Pollock, Bucknell University

Carl Milofsky, Professor of Sociology, Bucknell University

Heather Feldhaus, Professor of Sociology, Bloomsburg University

Leann Mischel, Professor of Entrepreneurship, Susquehanna University

Janice Keil, Professor of Business, Bloomsburg University

Dr. Witten, CSIU

Susan Bickford, Superintendent of Danville Area School District

Dr. Lonoconus, Superintendent of Shikellamy School District

Letters have been sent to CEDA COG and the commissioners of Northumberland, Snyder, Union and Montour counties. Bryn Mawr College professors of Economics, David Ross and Richard Stanke co-authoring advocacy articles with Leah Blankenship a 2004 graduate of Danville High School.

**Impact of local colleges.** The steadfast nature of an educational institution impacts a community in multiple ways including but not limited to: educational impact, cultural impact, community service impact, economic development impact, financial impact and visitor impact.

The economic impact of the following colleges and universities on their regions is published:

HACC	\$1.1 billion <sup>23</sup>
Philadelphia CC	\$204.0 million <sup>24</sup>
Penn Highlands CC	\$41.9 million <sup>25</sup>
Bucknell University	\$183.0 million <sup>26</sup>
Susquehanna University	\$97.7 million <sup>27</sup>

The social impact of Susquehanna University – 32,000 hours of community service

Annual impact of five community colleges in the southwest 12 counties of Pennsylvania reported to be \$3.4 billion.<sup>28</sup>

**Attitudes of local colleges.** To date all of the contacts that have been made at the four year institutions of Bucknell , Bloomsburg and Susquehanna Universities have expressed favor towards the creation of a community college.

**Pennsylvania Highlands Community College model.** Established in 1993 as Cambria County Community College, it is the most recent community college in Pennsylvania. Having faced similar economic and workforce struggles the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College has been a source of stimulus and is the priority investment of the chamber of commerce.<sup>29</sup> A separate report detailing the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College is will be available.

**Concurrent community college initiatives.** To date there are two other initiatives to establish community colleges in Erie and Juniata Counties.

**Course of action.** A steering committee should be activated to procure funding sources. Once this initiative has a sponsoring authority the following sequence would occur:

\*Process for Establishing a Community College in Pennsylvania

1 – The sponsoring authority conducts a feasibility study consisting of a community survey with two components 1) citizens’ survey<sup>30</sup> and 2) area assessment. (Recommend Delta Development Group, Inc.)

2 – The sponsoring authority submits a plan to the State Board of Education.

3 –The plan undergoes analysis by the Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary & Higher Education and the Bureau of Budget and Fiscal Management for evaluation of it’s academic and fiscal validity

4 – The State Board of Education may request the Department of Education to report it’s findings and recommendation to the Council of Higher Education

5 – The State Board of Education confers with, and obtains the approval of the Governor’s Office as to the number of community colleges which can be approved for participation during the ensuing fiscal year

6 – A notice is published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin inviting public comment to the application for establishment of a new community college

7 – The State Board of Education approves or disapproves the plan

8 – If approved, the governing bodies of the local sponsor appoint a board of trustees for the community college

9 – A final operational plan for the college must be submitted to the State Board of Education at least 120 days prior to the opening of the college

\*Adapted from Letter of response from Michael Dotts, Higher Education Associate 2, Office of Initiatives – August 22, 2007 to Ms. Lenaire Ahlum

**Conclusion.** The beneficial impact of a community college within the region includes community revitalization, retention of young people, age demographic balance, workforce development, and increased wages resulting in economic stimulation. Relevant, scholarly research reported by The Brookings Institute, Keystone Research Center and Pathways, PA have echoed the ‘Renew Pennsylvania’ theme.

The call in “Back to Prosperity” for the state to, first, craft a compelling, research-based vision of a more competitive economic future; and then, stick to it by executing a sharp-edged strategy for assessing the state’s industrial strengths; identifying and fostering desirable industries with growth potential; and improving the state’s education and training capacities and “tuning” them to the new industrial strategy.

\*Renewing PA Initiatives are emerging in the north central, south central, northeast, southeast and southwest regions of the commonwealth Central Pennsylvania is not included in the listing...yet...let the Central Susquehanna Valley region establish the First 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community College in the Commonwealth.

\*(see <http://www.renewpa.org/regionalintitiatives/catalog/>).

## REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup> Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Governor’s Office Executive Order-  
*Commission on College and Career Success*
- <sup>2</sup> Governor’s Commission on College and Career Success Commonwealth of  
Pennsylvania – Final Report
- <sup>3</sup> The Brookings Institution Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy 2003;  
*Back to Prosperity – A Competitive Agenda for Renewing Pennsylvania*  
Executive Summary
- <sup>4</sup> The Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program – *Committing To Prosperity:  
Moving Forward on the Agenda to Renew Pennsylvania (March 2007)*
- <sup>5</sup> Herzenberg, Stephen and Price, Mark(2007);The Keystone Research Center,  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; p 1-3.
- <sup>6</sup> Ibid ; p 7.
- <sup>7</sup> United States Department of Education - Strategic Plan For Fiscal Years 2007-2012.
- <sup>8</sup> Pennsylvania Code Chapter 35. Community Colleges General Provisions

PA Department of Ed

- <sup>9</sup> Goertzel, C., Bellesorte, M., Herzenberg, S. *Investing in Pennsylvania Families: Economic Opportunities for All* – Chapter 2 New Skills for a New Economy
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PA Department of Ed. - Economic Development Stipend  
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- <sup>11</sup> The University and the Community: The Impact of Bucknell University on the Local Community 2003-2004; p 11.
- <sup>12</sup> Pennsylvania Code Chapter 35. Community Colleges General Provisions  
PA Department of Ed.
- <sup>13</sup> Transforming Pennsylvania's High Schools Project 720, PDE
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- <sup>15</sup> Credit Transfer Guide – Luzerne County Community College & Clarion Univ.
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- <sup>18</sup> Pennsylvania Community Colleges' 2007-2008 Tuition & Fees

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- <sup>29</sup> History of Pennsylvania Highlands. Retrieved 9/30/2007 from:  
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- <sup>30</sup> Conducting a Community Survey: Citizens' Survey for Studying the Feasibility of a Community College; Pennsylvania Department of Education. (1963)

### COLLEGE WEBSITES

Harrisburg Area Community College  
<http://www.hacc.edu/index.cfm?fuseaction=studentServices.Tuition%20and%20Fees>

Luzerne County Community College  
<http://www.luzerne.edu/admissions/tuition.jsp>

Bloomsburg University  
<http://www.bloomu.edu/prospective/fees.php>

Pennsylvania College of Technology  
<http://www.pct.edu/finaid/cost.htm>

Susquehanna University  
<http://www.susqu.edu/crusader/article.cfm?IssueID=119&SectionID=1&ArticleID=5114>

Bucknell University  
<http://www.bucknell.edu/x565.xml>

### RELATED WEBSITES

The Brookings Institute Report – The state of Pennsylvania researched by an independent identifies the most pressing problems and provides recommendations for systemic policy reform.

<http://www.brookings.edu/metro/pubs/committingtoprosperity.htm>

The Keystone Research Center – Pennsylvania’s leading source of independent analysis of Pennsylvania’s economy and public policy.

<http://www.keystoneresearch.org/>

Link to the article titled ‘State of Rural Pennsylvania’

<http://www.keystoneresearch.org/ruralpa/pdf/srpa.pdf>

Renew PA website

<http://www.renewpa.org/>

The Pennsylvania legislation of general provisions for the operation of a community college.

<http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/022/chapter35/chap35toc.html>

The Pennsylvania legislation of general provisions for community college courses.

<http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/022/chapter335/chap335toc.html>

The Pennsylvania Department of Education –Community College link

<http://www.pdehighered.state.pa.us/higher/cwp/view.asp?a=6&q=41030&higherNav=|2928|6259|>

The Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges is a non-profit organization whose primary purpose is to represent the interests of the community colleges of Pennsylvania.

[http://www.pacommunitycolleges.org/frontpage/Itemid,1/Formula for Pennsylvania Community Colleges](http://www.pacommunitycolleges.org/frontpage/Itemid,1/Formula%20for%20Pennsylvania%20Community%20Colleges)

Pennsylvania Community College Funding Formula

[http://www.pdenewsroom.state.pa.us/newsroom/lib/newsroom/FAQ\\_Community\\_Colleges\\_-\\_2006-02-06.pdf](http://www.pdenewsroom.state.pa.us/newsroom/lib/newsroom/FAQ_Community_Colleges_-_2006-02-06.pdf)

Governor Rendell’s Pennsylvania Workforce Development Strategy

<http://www.paworkforce.state.pa.us/about/cwp/view.asp?a=471&q=152120>

The National website for the American Association of Community Colleges

<http://www.aacc.nche.edu/>

Central Pennsylvania issues relating to business growth

<http://www.focuscenpa.org/Default.htm>

National Center for Education Statistics

<http://www.nces.gov>

(Retrieved from: <http://www.pde.state.pa.us/k12statistics/lib/k12statistics/0506PDropinPAF4.pdf>)

PUBLIC SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES BY COUNTY  
2005-06

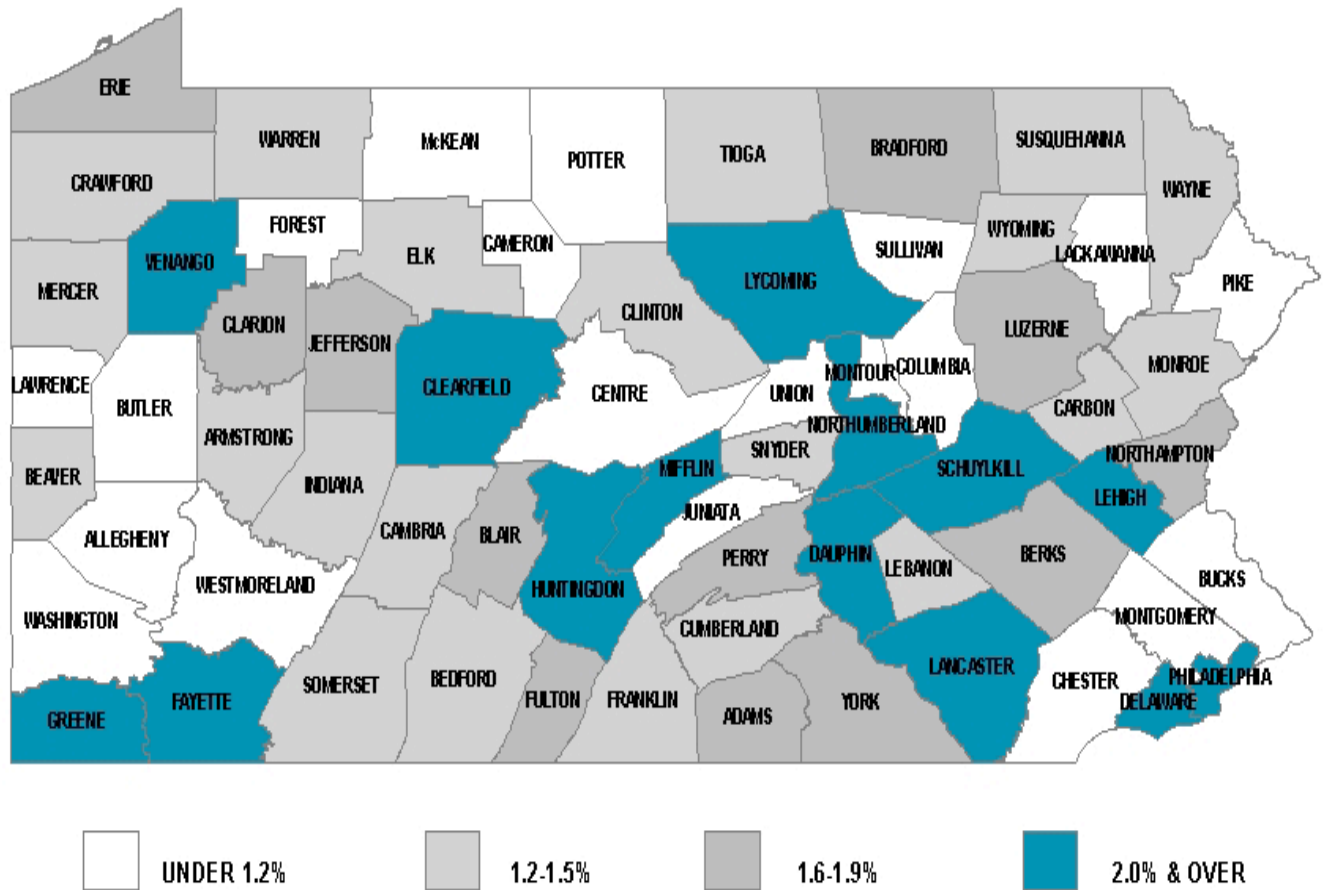


Figure 4 and Table 8 show that both urban and rural counties may vary in their range of dropout rates. Of the 67 counties, 14 had a dropout rate higher than the state average of 1.9%. These included Clearfield, Fayette, Greene, Huntingdon, Lycoming, Mifflin, Northumberland, Schuylkill, Venango and the urban counties of Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lehigh and Philadelphia. On the other hand, 20 counties had dropout rates of less than 1.2%. These included Butler, Cameron, Centre, Columbia, Forest, Juniata, Lawrence, McKean, Montour, Pike, Potter, Sullivan, Union, Washington and the urban counties of Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Lackawanna, Montgomery and Westmoreland. Dropout rates ranged from a low of 0.2% in Sullivan County to a high of 5.4% in Philadelphia County. Overall, 77.9% of Pennsylvania dropouts were from the 19 urban counties.

## NOTES