

# AACC Enrollment Reports

An Environmental Scanning Report

Strategic Leadership Team

Grand Rapids Community College

November 13, 2015

# Background

## *Reclaiming the American Dream: Community Colleges and the Nation's Future*

### - AACC report, 2010

- ▶ 7 recommendations
  - ▶ Increase completion rates by 50% by 2020
  - ▶ Dramatically improve college readiness
  - ▶ Close the American skills gap
  - ▶ Refocus the community college mission and redefine institutional roles
  - ▶ Invest in collaborative support structures
  - ▶ Target public and private investments strategically
  - ▶ Implement policies and practices that promote rigor and accountability

# Increase completion rates by 50% by 2020

- ▶ Recommended strategies
  - ▶ Publically commit to explicit goals for college completion
  - ▶ Create pathways
  - ▶ Expand prior learning assessments
  - ▶ Devise completion strategies on both ends of the college experience
  - ▶ Establish guarantees for seamless transfer
  - ▶ Implement automatic graduation and reverse transfer programs

## Table Discussion

- ▶ Discuss at your mix max tables the extent to which you think GRCC has successfully implemented the recommended strategies to increase completion rates

Two new AACCC reports:

*Trends in Community College  
Enrollment and Completion Data  
(2015)*

*Community College Completion -  
Progress toward goal of 50%  
increase (2015)*

## *Trends in Community College Enrollment and Completion Data*

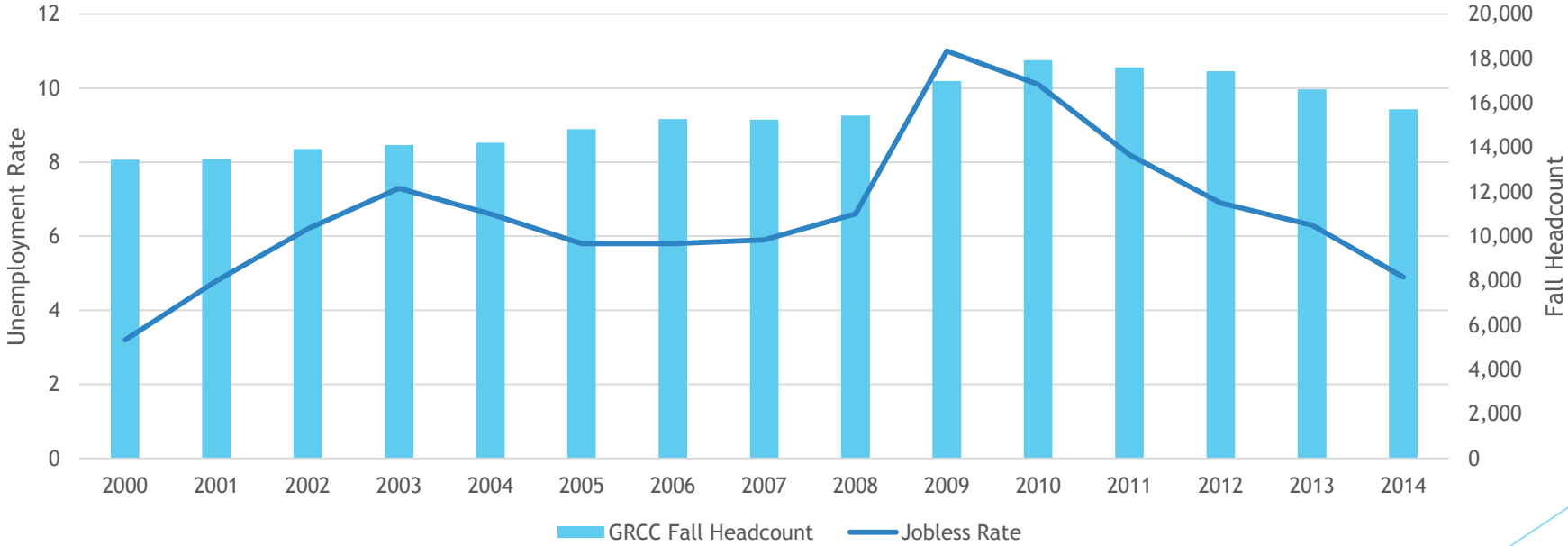
- ▶ Compared enrollment and completion rates using both IPEDS data and data from the National Student Clearinghouse. Both use different methodologies and definitions.

# Major Findings - Enrollment and Completion

- ▶ Both data sources show a continued decline in community college enrollments
- ▶ Over the last 3 years, the decrease in enrollment of older community college students has been the highest and most consistent
- ▶ The decrease in full-time student enrollment is higher than part-time enrollment.
- ▶ Tracking students beyond their starting institution, the NSC completion rate for community colleges was 39% (6 yrs), compared to IPEDS official 21% graduation rate (3 yrs).
- ▶ The NSC completion rate for full-time only students increases to 57% (6 years vs. 3 years) when allowing for students movement across colleges.
- ▶ *“The conventional wisdom is that “most community college students don’t graduate;” but the reality is that most full-time students do.”*

# Enrollment History - GRCC compared with national averages - (Compare with graph on page 4)

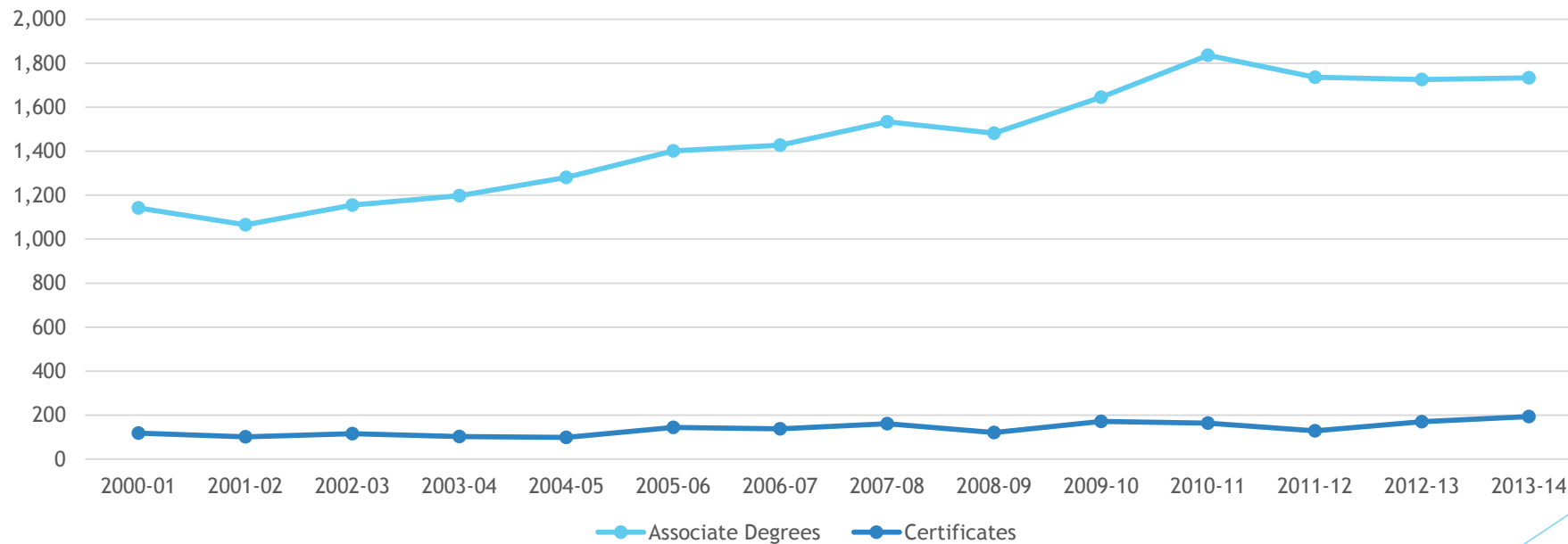
## Kent County Unemployment Rate and GRCC Fall Headcount Enrollment 2011 to 2014





# Completion History - GRCC Compared with national averages - Compare to graph on page 6

## Certificates and Associate Degrees Awarded by GRCC: 2000-01 to 2013-14



## Table Discussion

- ▶ How do GRCC's enrollment trends compare to the national averages?
- ▶ How do GRCC's completion rates compare to the national averages?

# Donna's Observations

- ▶ Enrollment pattern of GRCC to national averages is almost identical
- ▶ National completion data continues to rise each year, even more steeply since 2010. GRCC data seems to have leveled off after 2010
- ▶ Nationally, associate degree completions have continued to rise while enrollments declined. This has not been the case for GRCC. Our “graduation yield” has continued to remain fairly steady (7.8, 7.8, 7.2, 7.1). However, our 14-15 data do show an increase.
- ▶ The number of certificate completions at GRCC lags behind national numbers.

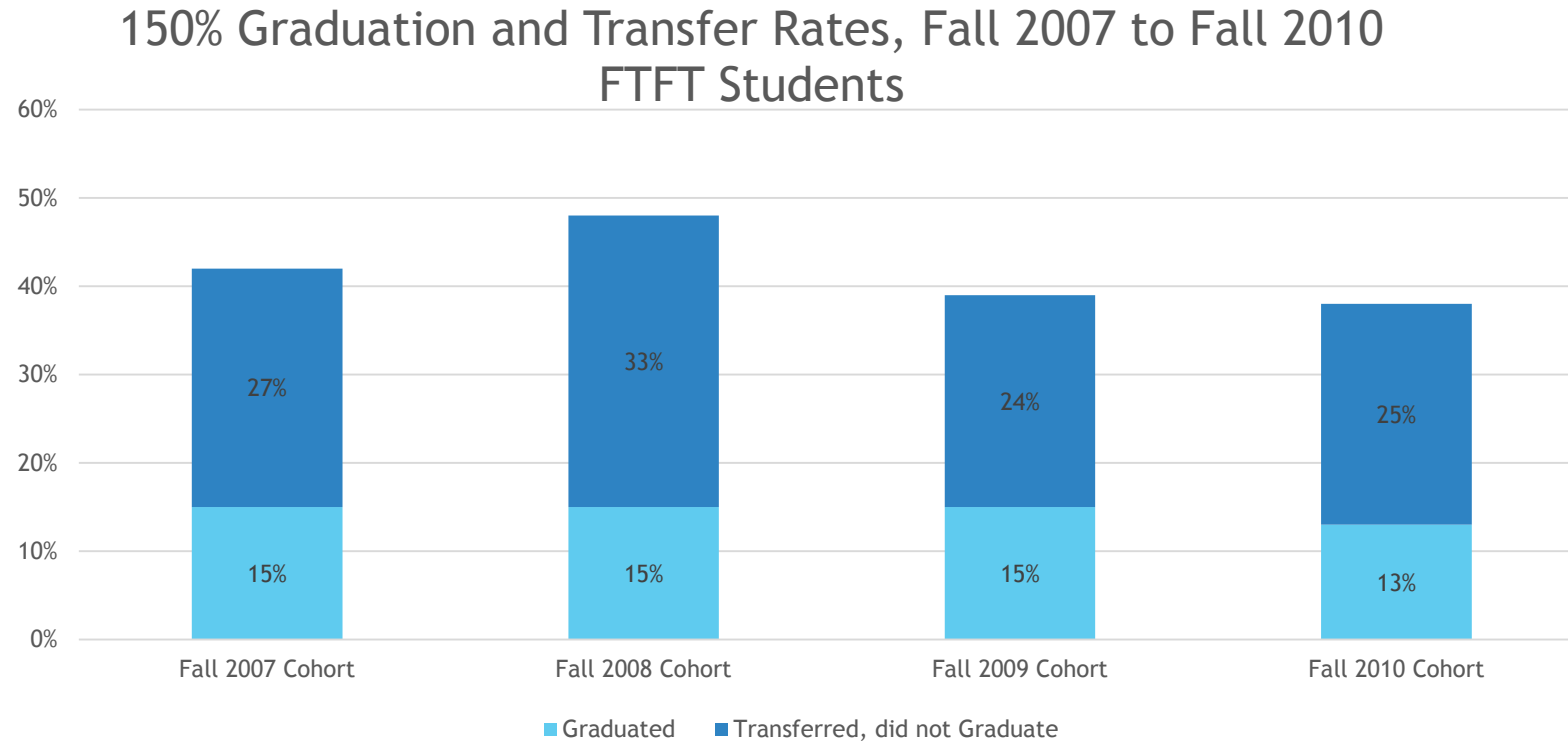
## National observations - “Counts”

- ▶ Report concludes that national goal of 50% increase in completions will be met by 2021 rather than 2020.
- ▶ Report documents the impact of the national recession on community college students
- ▶ Biggest increases in completions were among students age 24 or younger

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# GRCC data compared to data provided in the Community College Completion report

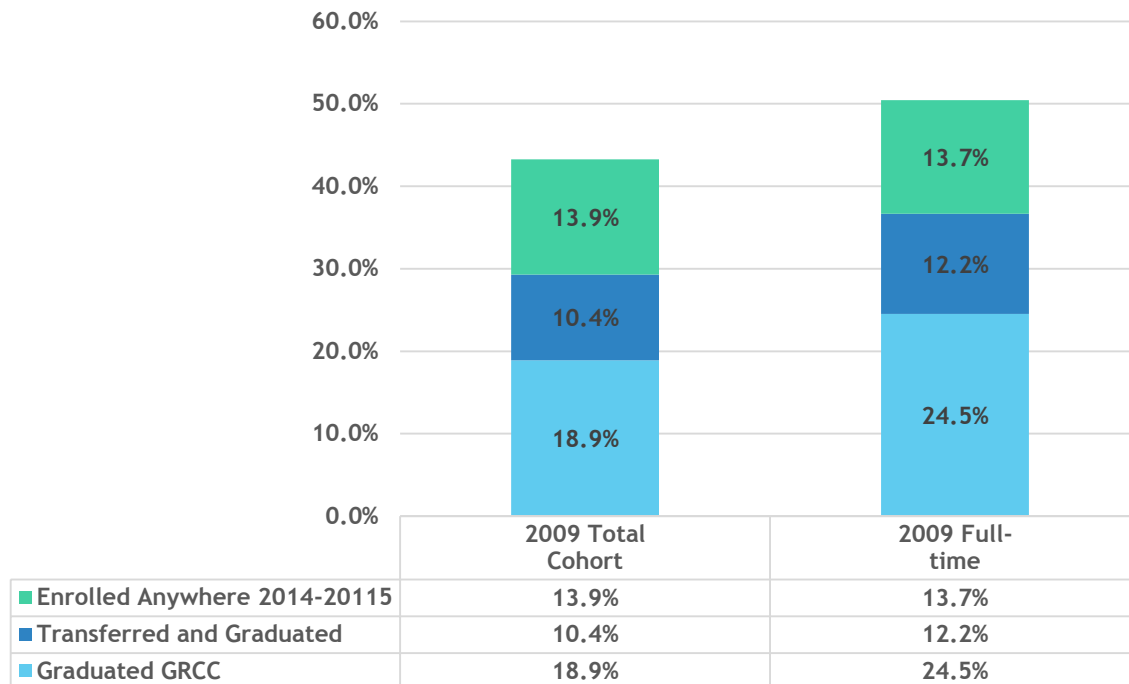
# Transfer and completion rates - GRCC compared with national averages - (Compare to chart on page 18)



- GRCC students are more likely to transfer without graduating
- Nationally, the total percentages have “caught up” to GRCC

# Six year completion/transfer - GRCC compared with national averages - Compare to graph on page 19)

Six-Year Outcomes and First Completion for GRCC Fall 2009 FTIACs

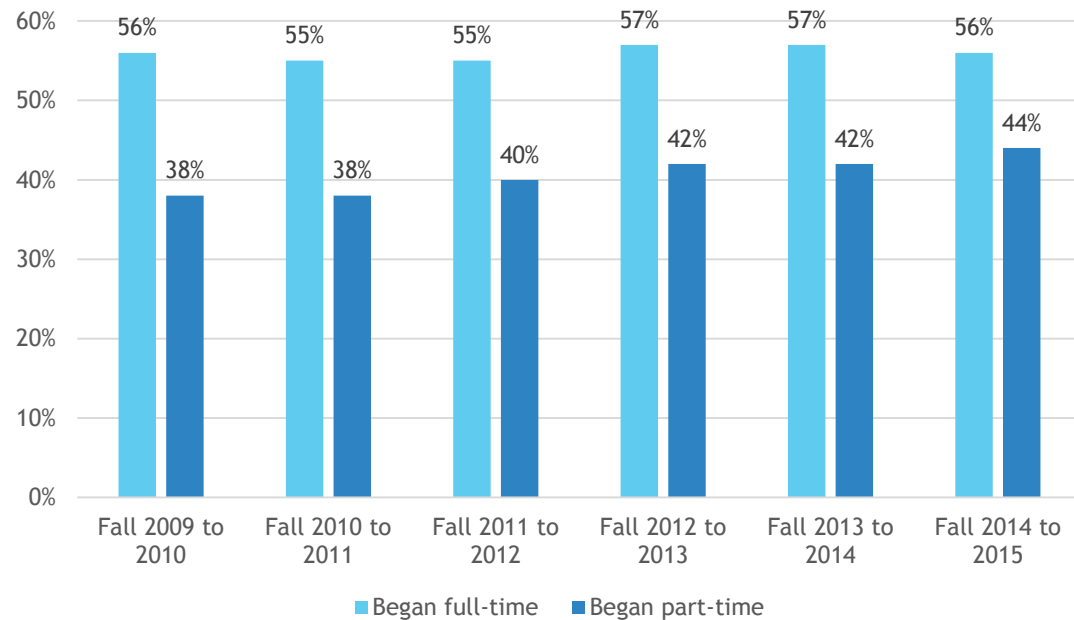


- GRCC has few graduates, fewer transfers earning degrees, but more still enrolled than national figures
- GRCC students who started full time are more likely to still be attending
- GRCC students who started part time are less likely to still be attending

# Fall to Fall Retention - GRCC compared with national averages

(Compare to chart on page 20)

GRCC Fall to Fall Retention for FTIAC Students by FT and PT Status

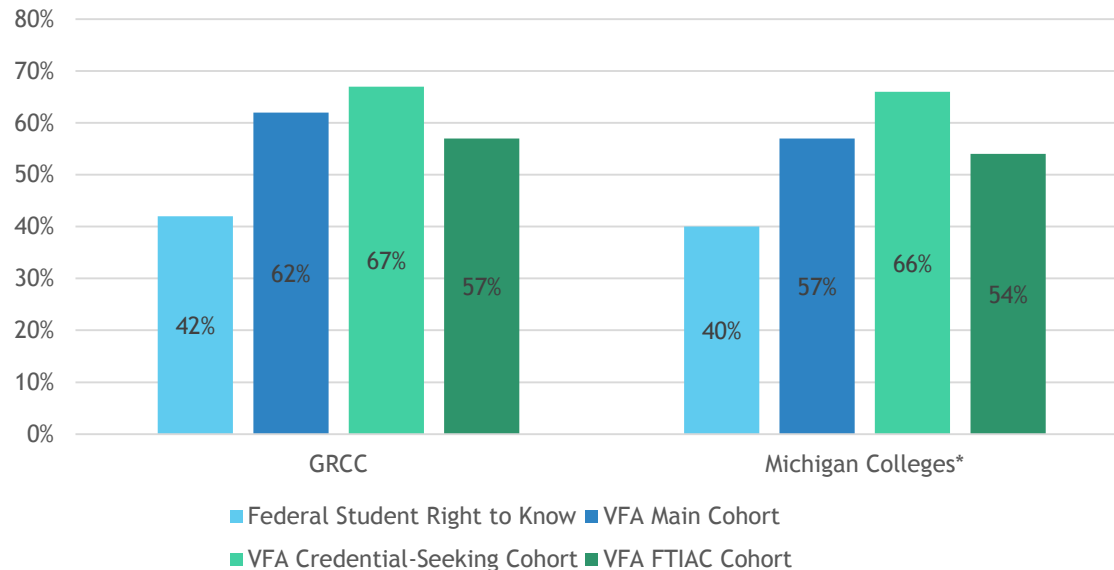


\* GRCC full time and part time FTIAC student retention rates are slightly lower than national levels, but follow a similar pattern



# Alternative methods of completion - VFA

Federal Grad+Transfer Rate and VFA Grad+Transfer Rate, Fall 2007 Entering Cohort



- ▶ VFA uses a 6-year timeframe
- ▶ VFA uses multiple cohort measures
- ▶ GRCC outperforms Michigan college averages for all cohorts

# Table Discussion

- ▶ Share something new that you learned from this presentation
- ▶ What did you hear this morning that surprised you?
- ▶ Is there any thing from this presentation that you plan to share with others?