



Best Educational E-Practices (BEEP)

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Providing Four-Year and Graduate Degrees in a Community College Setting

“As we begin a new century, it appears that the community college baccalaureate will become a logical, innovative addition to higher education.”

(Dr. John Garmon, [Community College Week](#), July 23, 2001)

The idea of offering baccalaureate and other advanced degrees in a community college setting has become a reality in the last five years, aided in large part by the e-learning mode of delivery. [St. Petersburg College](#) this year became a four-year institution. Also, its [University Partnership Center](#) now offers degrees up to the doctoral level, partnering with twelve universities in and outside Florida.

Background Information

- [Baccalaureate Education in the Community College Setting](#). Summary of a report (2/23/01) by the Task Force on Baccalaureate Education in the Community College created by the Higher Learning Commission. Includes recommendations for program development.
- [Community College Baccalaureate Association](#). An association of educators formed to promote the development and acceptance of a community college baccalaureate degree.
- [“The Community College Transfer Function in the 21st Century: Where Hopes and Dreams Collide.”](#) Article by Barbara K. Townsend, University of Missouri, in *Update on Research and Leadership* 12(2), Spring 2001. Good background article on different ways to facilitate attaining a baccalaureate degree for students at community colleges.
- [“Future Concerns – Key Values for Community Colleges.”](#) Article by Dale F. Campbell and Lynn H. Leverty in the *Community College Journal* 70(1), August/September 1999. A look at various scenarios of the future of the community college, including the baccalaureate degree.
- [“An Open Door to the Bachelor’s Degree.”](#) Article by Kenneth P. Walker, Edison College (FL) in *Leadership Abstracts* 14(2), April 2001. A call for the offering of baccalaureate degrees at the community college level by community college president.
- [Progress Report on Arizona Postsecondary Education](#). Abstract of an annual report presented by the Arizona Board of Regents and Board for Community Colleges to the state legislature listing a variety of methods addressing articulation and postsecondary needs.

Two-Year Colleges That Now Offer Baccalaureate Degrees

- [Dalton State College \(GA\)](#). Offering bachelor’s degrees since 1999 in Industrial Operations Management, Management Information Systems and Applied Science in Technology Management.
- [Dixie State College \(UT\)](#). Given a name change and baccalaureate degree status in 2000, this school offers bachelor’s degrees in Business Administration and Computer and Information Technology.
- [Louisiana State University at Alexandria](#). Granted four-year status during the 2001 legislative session, the school plans to offer bachelor’s degrees in elementary education, general business, general studies, biology, and nursing in the 2002-2003 school year.
- [Utah Valley State College](#). Formerly Utah Valley Community College, the status and name of the college were changed in 1993. It now offers bachelor’s degrees in Business Management; Computer Science and Information Systems; Technology Management; Elementary Education; Hospitality Management; Accounting; Behavioral Science; Biology; Fire Services Administration; Paralegal Studies; Criminal Justice; Aviation Professional Pilot; and English.
- [Westark College \(AR\)](#). Established by the state General Assembly as a “unique community college” in 1997, Westark is authorized to offer a degree in [Manufacturing Technology Management](#), as well as seven others to be determined by demonstrated demand within the next four years.

Examples of Community College and University Partnerships

- [Arizona Western College](#). A look at a number of innovative partnerships within the college's community, including one with Northern Arizona University. The two schools share common campus and delivery sites to provide seamless associate-through-graduate degree programs.
- [Edison College \(FL\)](#). A Web site for the Edison University Center, where the college partners with Florida State University, International College (FL), National-Louis University (IL), Thomas Edison State College (NJ) and Florida Gulf Coast University. (Edison is also planning to offer four-year degrees at its own school, after recent state legislation has allowed St. Petersburg College to do so.)
- [Jefferson Community College \(OH\)](#). Partners with Franciscan University, Ohio University Eastern, and Youngstown State to offer courses for both bachelor's and master's degrees.
- [Lorain County Community College \(OH\)](#). Extensive partnering with Ohio universities, including University of Akron, Ashland University, Cleveland State University, Kent State, Ohio State, Ohio University, University of Toledo, and Youngstown State University to offer bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as post-graduate certificates.
- [Macomb Community College \(MI\)](#). One of the oldest and most extensive partnerships, approved in 1988 and begun in 1991. Bachelor's and master's degree programs are offered through eleven four-year colleges and universities.
- [North Harris Montgomery Community College District \(TX\)](#). Offering bachelor's, master's and professional degrees, the college partners with Texas Southern University, Sam Houston State University, University of Houston, and Prairie View A & M University.

Other Ideas for Increasing Access to Four-Year Degrees

- [Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program](#). A National Institutes of Health program for minority students at selected community colleges to pursue science studies at selected New York state community colleges, with their ultimate destination of Binghamton University to pursue a baccalaureate degree in a biomedically-related field.
- [Campus-Community Collaborations: Examples and Resources for Community Colleges](#). Online collection of ideas, including university partnerships, edited by Terry Pickeral and Karen Peters, National Center for Community Colleges, 1996.
- [Dual Admission and Partnership Between Near-By Area Community College and The State University Local Valley College](#). Report by Thomas W. Speakman, Penn State University, on a proposed dual admission partnership between a community college and a university branch campus.
- [Florida Community College at Jacksonville Navy College Rating Partners](#). Part of a larger Navy initiative to provide a streamlined, interlaced education plan from Navy "A" school to a bachelor's degree for Navy service members anywhere worldwide.
- ["Reverse Transfers in the Community College."](#) *ERIC Digest* article (EDO-JC-99-09), October 1999, by Christine LeBard. Looks at the role of the community college in working with students who have already earned credits from a four-year institution before earning a baccalaureate.
- ["Rio Salado Plans Online Program for Teacher Education."](#) Article by Scott Carlson in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, August 3, 2001. An example of a community college offering post-graduate certification, Rio Salado College (AZ) will begin the first online teacher-certification program in the country.
- [Texas A & M Partnership for Texas Public Schools](#). Unique statewide initiative (Regents' Initiative for Excellence in Education), begun in 1996 to aid in the recruitment and education of teachers. Cooperative agencies and services exist at the secondary, community college, and university level.
- ["Two-Year Colleges: Much More Than Vocational Schools."](#) Report from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute about a bridge program that enables talented Miami-Dade Community College students to carry out scientific research at the University of Miami's facilities. Those who do well can complete their junior and seniors years free at the university.
- [University of California, Davis, University Partnership Program](#). A program between the university and area community colleges to enhance instruction in biology at the community college level. Features a sabbatical semester for community college instructors on the university campus.