



Contact:

Linda García  
Executive Director  
Office: 512-232-8428  
Cell: 512-541-8365  
linda.garcia@cccse.org

Alternate Contact:

Courtney Adkins  
Assistant Director of Publications  
Office: 512-475-6142  
adkins@cccse.org

***The Importance of Helping Students Find Balance Between Work and Learning***

AUSTIN, TX –

*The Intersection of Work and Learning: Findings From Entering Students in Community Colleges*, a report released today by the Center for Community College Student Engagement (the Center), illustrates that when faculty and staff talk with entering students about their work and help them find balance between their working lives and their academic lives, they are helping those students onto a path of being more successful.

Most entering community college students work. In fact, with survey findings collected from over 20,000 entering students across 74 colleges, the report shows that 69 percent of these students work for pay. Almost one-third of them work over forty hours per week, and 64 percent say being a student and being an employee are equally important to them.

Working for pay while being in college is challenging for entering students:

- 17 percent of entering students who work report missing class because of work at least once in the first three weeks of class.
- 36 percent of entering students who work report that working makes it difficult for them to take the courses they need.

Entering students also report that not many faculty and staff know how much they work or talk to them about their working lives:

- 83 percent of entering students report that none of their instructors know how many hours per week they work.
- 81 percent of entering students report that a staff member did not help them decide how to balance the number of classes they take with the number of hours they work.

However, there is a positive benefit to instructors and staff taking an interest in their students' working lives. When this happens, students are much more engaged and in turn, more likely to be successful.

“Communication is key in helping community college students navigate the complexities of life. The more colleges can build relationships with students while continuing to be flexible, the more successful they will be at helping students achieve their goals,” said Center Executive Director Linda García.

The Center for Community College Student Engagement is a service and research initiative in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy in the College of Education at The University of Texas at Austin.

[\*The Intersection of Work and Learning: Findings From Entering Community College Students\*](#) will be available publicly on October 28, 2020.