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COVID-19's Continued Impact on Community College Students

AUSTIN, TX –

A new report released by CCCSE, *The Continued Impact of COVID-19 on Community College Students*, highlights the ways in which the pandemic is still affecting some groups of community college students more than others.

- Eighteen percent of White students said they were struggling to pay for college as a result of COVID-19, compared to 30 percent of Asian students, 29 percent of Hispanic or Latino students, 26 percent of Black or African American students, and 25 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native students.
- Thirty-six percent of nontraditional-age students (aged 25+) reported their financial situation as worse than it was before the pandemic, as opposed to 31 percent of traditional-age students.

As with students who were surveyed in fall 2020, spring 2021 survey respondents who attended classes in person reported varying levels of comfort with being on campus. Women, nontraditional-age students,

and Black or African American students reported being more likely than other student groups to try and avoid situations on campus in which they could not socially distance from others.

The pandemic brought about new stresses for many students and exacerbated existing stresses for others. Yet in fall 2020, 57 percent of surveyed students reported being unaware of services their college had to help them cope with stress related to the pandemic. Almost half of spring 2021 respondents (49 percent) reported being unaware of such services.

“There is no magical antidote that will solve students’ financial issues or provide relief from anxieties brought about by COVID-19, but we shouldn’t discount the power that knowledge holds.” said Linda García, CCCSE executive director. “If we equip students with information about available supports, the likelihood of them persisting and succeeding will grow.”

The data in the report are based on a survey administered in spring 2021 to 120,833 students across 273 colleges. Twenty colleges administered the survey in person, and 253 colleges administered the survey online.

CCCSE 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.