

Weekly Update
Friday, March 22, 2013

Dear friends and colleagues,

CollegeMeasures.org

This is an interesting website providing insights into some of the opportunities and challenges facing the college. The site enables you to look up information specific to East Georgia State College. You may want to take a few minutes to explore this site:

www.collegemeasures.org

For example, the website presents a list of seven "Strategic Measures." The tools provided then allow the user to ask, "What is "the college's overall performance, based on seven strategic performance measures?"

The tools provided then enable the user to look up these measures for a particular college. The following are the results presented for East Georgia State College (the second and third columns are the percentile among all colleges and the percentile among medium-sized public colleges):

Graduation + transfer rate	44.5 %	52nd	68th
First-year retention rate	83.6 %	52nd	52nd
Cost per student (FTE)	\$4,068	4th	0th
Cost per completion	\$67,539	68th	68th
Completions per 100 FTE students	6	4th	2nd
Cost of attrition	\$0.7m	N/A	N/A
Student loan default rate	18.2 %	89th	94th

{Note: the student loan default rate in this table is the "older" two year rate -- not the most recent three year rate }

As the state of Georgia moves to performance based funding, these are the type of measures which will become critical in determining our state funding (likely beginning in FY 2016). This is in contrast to the current system, which emphasizes enrollment and credit hours produced.

Returns on Higher Education Investment

You may also want to read this brief, interesting article on the value of higher education;

"Economic and social returns of higher education justify new approaches" by Mike Gerber, President of Cross Channel Initiatives:

<http://saportareport.com/blog/2013/03/investing-in-education-generates-social-and-economic-returns-justifying-new-approaches/>

NJCAA Tourney in Hutchinson Kansas

Joyce and I made the trip to Hutchinson, Kansas to watch our men's basketball team compete in the NJCAA national tournament. Although I am admittedly a big basketball fan, it is best that I leave the in-depth basketball analysis to others more knowledgeable than I. Simply put, the team's play was impressive and inspiring. They dominated game one and lost a close game two. Their style of play won them the crowd's respect and affection in both games.

Although I will stay away from basketball analysis, I won't shy away from sharing my observations about the way the team and the cheering squad represented the college. Many tournament officials and spectators took the time to come up to me and tell me how impressed they were by the way the team and the cheering squad conducted themselves.

The exemplary way in which both the basketball team and cheering squad represented EGSC is best described, perhaps, by a brief anecdote. The team, prior to the beginning of the tournament, practiced at a local grade school. Not only did they practice there, they interacted with the students. A group of the grade school students then attended the second game and, along with their parents, became an enthusiastic cheering section for EGSC. The cheering squad adopted the children also. Following a tough loss, the children huddled outside the locker room awaiting autographs from their new heroes. As the team emerged, they set aside their disappointment and patiently signed autographs. The impact on the young people and their parents was palpable. Although the score of the final game of the season is a loss in the statistical records of the NJCAA, it was a victory in my book.

Thanks to the many members of the EGSC community who made travel by these fine EGSC students to Kansas possible. It is appreciated deeply and it was a wise investment.

COMPASS Testing: Working with Local High Schools

During the coming week, we will have about 200 high school students on campus for COMPASS testing. In addition to taking the test, they will be provided with information about successful approaches to taking the test and remediation when they do not achieve minimum scores. The students will not be required to pay a testing fee and those who choose to apply to EGSC will not pay an application fee. This is a first, but important, step in forging a new partnership with local secondary schools to raise expectations about attending college and to increase readiness of students for college.

I hope your week is a good one.

Bob Boehmer