



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT:** Gretchen Wright  
202/371-1999  
Edie Irons  
510/334-1344

## **Financial Aid Applications on the Rise at Community Colleges** *New data now available from EconomicDiversity.org*

Financial aid data for the 2005-06 academic year shows that the percentage of students applying for federal financial aid increased much faster at community colleges than at four-year institutions over the past five years. Campus-specific data compiled by the Institute for College Access & Success – and now available on EconomicDiversity.org – shows a 37 percent increase in the proportion of community college students applying for federal aid nationwide, compared with ten percent at four-year public institutions, and seven percent at four-year private nonprofit institutions.

“Financial aid application rates at community colleges are definitely on the rise, but the proportion of community college students who apply for aid is still much lower than at four-year schools,” said Robert Shireman, President of the Institute for College Access & Success, home of EconomicDiversity.org. “As costs like housing and textbooks continue to rise along with tuition and fees, financial aid is becoming a necessity for more community college students.”

Sector	2000-01	2005-06	Percentage change
Public four-year	53.5%	59.2%	+ 10.5%
Private non-profit four-year	61.7%	66.0%	+ 7.1%
Public two-year	24.8%	34.1%	+ 37.3%

EconomicDiversity.org is the only publicly available web site with campus-level, multi-year data on student income, financial aid, race and ethnicity, loan debt, and other variables. Users can easily view data on specific colleges and universities, or compare multiple institutions. The site can be used to identify trends in student enrollment, diversity and financial aid usage, and compare colleges by state, sector, and other criteria.

EconomicDiversity.org is maintained and updated with support from the Ford Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and The Pew Charitable Trusts. The site is operated by the Institute for College Access & Success, in partnership with MPR Associates, a research firm. The information in the database is derived primarily from U.S. Department of Education sources, with additional data licensed from Peterson’s.

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*An independent, nonprofit organization, the Institute for College Access & Success works to make higher education more available and affordable for people of all backgrounds. By conducting and supporting nonpartisan research, analysis, and advocacy, the Institute aims to improve the processes and public policies that can pave the way to successful educational outcomes for students and for society.*