



Iowa Community College Transfer Students
Perform Exceptionally Well at the
Regents' Institutions

Michael C. Morrison
President
North Iowa Area Community College

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Purpose: This brief report compares baccalaureate graduation rates of native students at the Regents institutions with community college transfer students. The source of information is from reports from the Board of Regents.

Caveat: The Board of Regents Annual Reports typically have the following statement: *"Graduation rates for transfer students are calculated from the date of admission to a Regent university. Years of study completed at previous institutions are not included in the determination of time-to-degree. Therefore, graduation rates of transfer students are not truly comparable to graduation rates for entering freshmen because of the difference in time frames."*

Response: True enough; it may not be an apples to apples comparison, but wouldn't the comparison be more fair if Community Colleges had the same advantage of recruiting the top half of the high school graduation class with the students accompanying higher socioeconomic status!

- I. From the *"Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation Rates."* Board of Regents. February 6, 2007:

72% of Iowa Community College Transfer Students Graduate within Four Years of Entering Iowa State University

"Transfer student success at ISU continues to improve. This is particularly true for transfer students from Iowa community colleges - 71.9% of Iowa community college students who enter ISU after earning an AA degree graduate within four years of entering ISU."

This Compares with SUI Native Students at 65%; 63.9% at ISU; and 64% at UNI (Ten Year Average Rates)

"During the past ten years, the average six-year graduation rate at SUI has been 64.5%; at ISU, it has been 63.9%; and at UNI, it has been 64.0%. The Fall 2006 six-year graduation rate at SUI is 65.5%; at ISU, it is 65.8%; and at UNI, it is 67.1%, which is an all-time high."

Source: *"Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation Rates."* Board of Regents. February 6, 2007.

II. From the *"Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation Rates."* Board of Regents. November 3, 2003:

"The largest number of students who transfer to Regent universities comes from Iowa's public community colleges (2,108 in Fall 1999). The four-year graduation rate for the entering class of 1999 was 54.7% at SUI compared to 53.5% for the entering class of 1998. At ISU, the four-year graduation rate for the entering class of 1999 was 62.4% compared to 58.8% for the entering class of 1998. At UNI, the four-year graduation rate for the entering class of 1999 was 67.8% compared to 64.9% for the entering class of 1998."

"Students who transfer from Iowa community colleges and complete an Associate of Arts (AA) degree typically have higher one-year retention and four-year graduation rates than the general population of transfer students."

Source: *"Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation Rates."* Board of Regents. November 3, 2003.

III. From the *"Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation Rates."* November 6, 2002:

"The largest number of students who transfer to Regent universities comes from Iowa's public community colleges (2,081 in Fall 1996). For the past six reporting years, these students have posted an average six-year graduation rate of 55.6% compared to 63.8% for entering freshmen at SUI; 63.6% compared to 62.2% for entering freshmen at ISU; and 69.0% compared to 63.1% for entering freshmen at UNI."

Source: *"Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation Rates."* Board of Regents. November 4, 2002.

IV. From the "Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation Rates." November 6, 2001:

"Except for the entering class of 1995, transfer students typically have had higher six-year graduation rates than entering freshmen."

"The largest proportion of students who transfer to Regent universities comes from Iowa's community colleges (1,829 in Fall 1995). For the past eight reporting years, these students have posted an average six-year graduation rate of 55.8% at SUI, 63.7% at ISU, and 70.2% at UNI.

"Six-year graduation rates for the most recent reporting year - the entering class of 1995 - increased at SUI from 63.9% to 64.7%; at ISU, the rate increased from 62.4% to 63.7%; and at UNI, the rate increased from 62.2% to 64.2%."

Source: "Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation Rates." Board of Regents. November 6, 2007.

(Continued on next page)

V. *Tables from the "Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation Rates 2006". Board of Regents. February 6, 2007.*

**TABLE 18
FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATES
BY TYPE OF TRANSFER COLLEGE
FOR ENTERING CLASSES OF 1991 - 2001
FALL 2005**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Iowa 2-yr Public, AA Degree											
SUI	58.6	56.8	55.8	56.6	54.9	60.7	59.5	61.2	62.1	57.5	64.4
ISU	76.8	75.3	66.7	60.1	72.1	63.3	68.8	72.2	70.3	79.0	71.4
UNI	71.6	73.0	72.9	72.3	72.5	69.9	71.7	73.5	75.8	75.0	75.4
Iowa 2-yr Public, No AA Degree											
SUI	40.3	39.4	36.6	40.9	47.7	45.3	42.3	46.3	47.9	48.3	51.9
ISU	50.8	49.7	48.2	50.6	50.4	55.8	55.7	53.0	59.0	59.1	50.9
UNI	44.5	48.8	53.5	44.7	51.4	52.3	50.8	54.4	55.2	49.8	47.6
All Iowa 2-yr Public											
SUI	50.0	49.0	46.2	48.5	50.9	52.7	50.7	53.5	54.7	52.0	57.7
ISU	55.6	56.1	52.5	52.7	55.2	57.9	59.0	58.8	62.4	65.1	56.2
UNI	63.0	65.8	66.2	61.2	64.6	62.4	64.2	64.9	67.8	64.8	64.2
Iowa Private 2-yr											
SUI	37.5	100.0	66.7	40.0	77.8	25.0	50.0	29.4	0.0	57.1	80.0
ISU	50.0	65.2	33.3	48.1	47.6	46.2	52.0	40.0	70.8	66.7	53.8
UNI	68.4	67.7	50.0	60.9	53.5	47.4	73.3	50.0	64.3	50.0	58.3
Iowa Private 4-yr											
SUI	52.7	53.1	50.9	60.6	58.1	57.3	59.6	53.7	58.1	65.1	57.8
ISU	56.3	58.9	63.7	46.3	63.6	56.9	58.8	62.3	66.7	65.3	62.9
UNI	55.0	58.1	49.5	59.8	54.5	69.1	59.5	56.3	62.2	64.4	62.9
Iowa Public 4-yr											
SUI	72.2	70.5	72.8	70.0	70.1	77.7	69.0	73.4	65.2	71.4	67.9
ISU	64.5	58.3	67.9	64.0	57.6	69.1	62.8	62.7	74.1	76.9	63.0
UNI	75.3	69.6	75.0	60.0	72.9	64.1	72.7	80.0	65.9	73.2	59.7
Colleges Outside Iowa											
SUI	57.0	56.8	53.3	59.4	60.6	65.3	64.4	63.0	61.1	61.1	63.0
ISU	53.0	51.0	56.5	57.7	56.3	59.7	58.3	61.6	60.4	61.0	58.7
UNI	45.1	53.9	60.0	53.4	64.1	58.1	63.0	55.6	58.8	58.1	65.6
TOTAL TRANSFERS											
SUI	56.5	55.6	52.8	56.4	57.9	60.7	57.9	58.4	58.1	58.2	60.7
ISU	55.5	55.3	55.6	54.2	56.4	59.0	58.9	59.8	63.2	64.9	57.9
UNI	61.4	64.0	63.4	60.1	63.6	62.4	64.5	63.6	66.2	64.3	63.9

**TABLE 9
SIX-YEAR GRADUATION RATES
BY RACE/ETHNICITY
FOR ENTERING CLASSES OF 1988 - 1999
FALL 2005**

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Native Am.												
SUI	50.0	50.0	40.0	83.3	70.0	76.9	11.8	60.0	58.3	58.8	70.6	41.2
ISU	50.0	57.1	0.0	14.3	40.0	28.6	71.4	50.0	42.9	54.5	60.0	43.8
UNI	0.0	0.0	50.0	40.0	25.0	50.0	0.0	40.0	50.0	0.0	50.0	40.0
African-Am.												
SUI	34.5	42.2	39.8	34.7	40.7	48.6	53.5	40.0	59.7	38.0	43.4	50.5
ISU	37.8	37.0	37.6	36.1	27.3	33.5	34.0	43.5	40.0	43.6	36.5	51.0
UNI	16.7	31.1	38.8	34.9	40.0	42.4	42.5	44.8	32.1	31.6	40.5	42.0
Asian-Am.												
SUI	60.9	44.9	58.4	56.2	62.5	67.6	59.8	59.6	54.3	65.4	67.0	54.3
ISU	58.9	59.7	50.0	50.0	56.4	53.4	72.0	64.1	61.0	67.7	56.8	59.3
UNI	36.4	53.3	43.8	73.7	64.3	42.3	41.9	78.9	40.0	52.6	41.2	57.9
Hispanic-Am.												
SUI	43.9	53.2	54.0	52.5	54.4	46.7	53.4	51.4	46.8	65.3	58.8	53.5
ISU	46.7	54.5	35.7	40.4	36.5	55.4	50.9	35.6	45.0	58.8	54.7	66.7
UNI	40.0	41.7	75.0	35.7	40.0	33.3	36.4	45.5	50.0	10.0	37.5	35.7
Subtotal												
SUI	47.3	45.4	49.0	49.3	53.7	57.8	53.7	52.0	53.6	57.8	57.5	52.3
ISU	44.6	45.7	40.0	40.4	38.6	40.7	51.3	49.2	48.2	55.4	48.0	56.5
UNI	23.0	36.5	44.0	44.4	44.1	41.0	39.5	53.3	39.4	33.3	40.7	44.3
White												
SUI	62.0	62.1	63.9	64.2	64.8	63.1	65.1	66.4	65.4	65.1	67.1	67.4
ISU	65.2	63.6	62.0	61.7	62.7	62.7	63.1	64.7	66.5	66.9	68.0	68.9
UNI	62.2	63.2	60.1	61.2	63.2	64.3	63.3	64.9	67.4	66.6	65.3	66.0
Regent Total												
SUI	61.2	60.9	62.6	63.1	63.7	62.8	64.0	64.9	64.4	64.6	66.2	66.1
ISU	63.6	61.6	60.0	60.1	61.1	60.4	62.4	63.7	65.3	65.7	66.5	68.0
UNI	60.4	61.9	59.4	60.4	62.2	62.9	62.2	64.2	66.5	65.2	64.3	65.0

Source: "Annual Report on Student Retention and Graduation Rates Tables 2006." Board of Regents. February 6, 2007.