

FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE? PATHWAYS TO THE PROMISE

Debbie Cochrane
Vice President

The Institute for College Access & Success

Rural Community College Alliance Conference
September 29, 2017

THE INSTITUTE FOR COLLEGE ACCESS & SUCCESS

In California and nationally, TICAS works to:

- Increase awareness and reduce the burden of student loan debt
- Improve access to available aid
- Strengthen need-based grant programs
- Protect students, borrowers, and taxpayers

The Rural Higher-Education Crisis

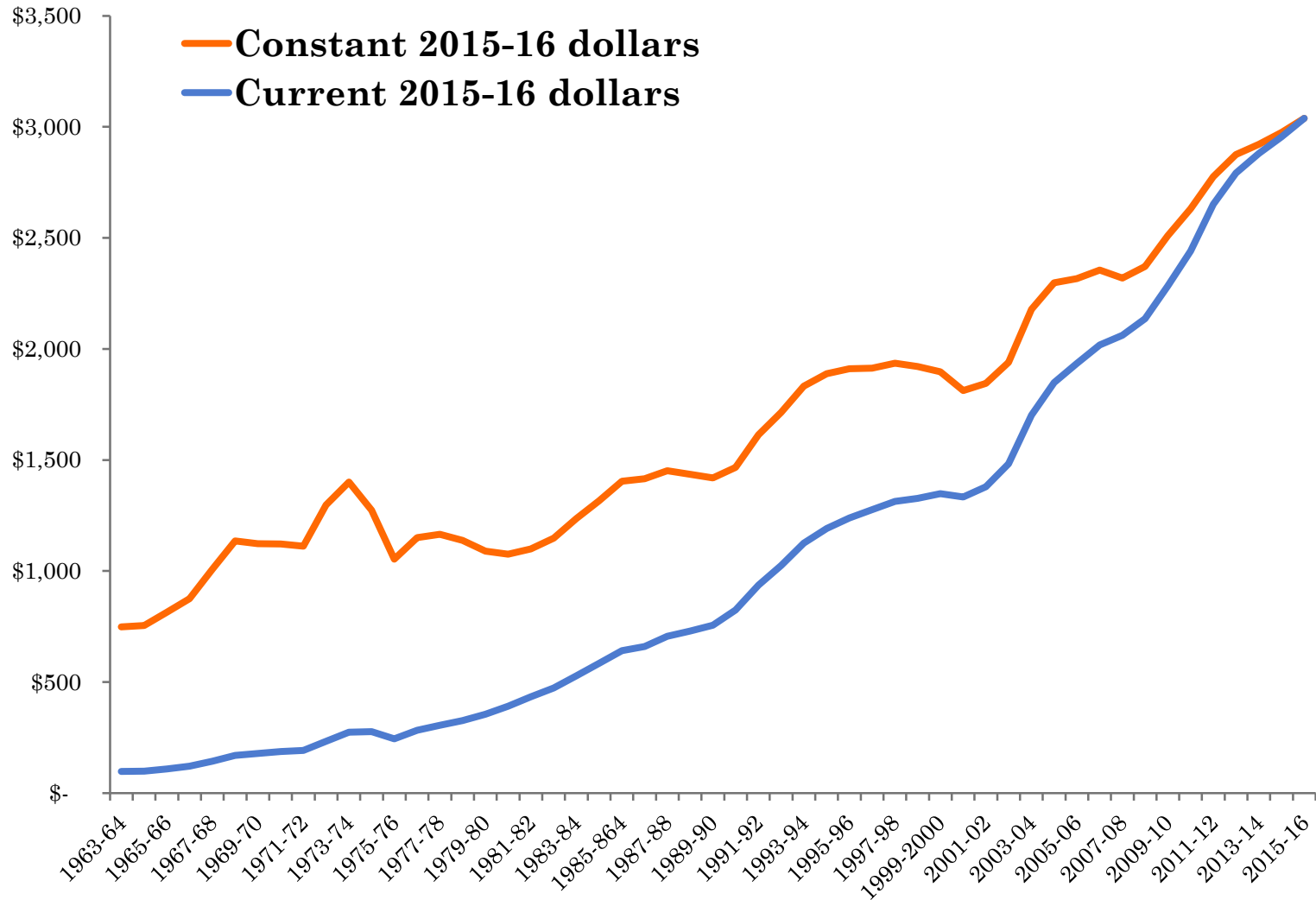
When it comes to college enrollment, students in Middle America—many of them white—face an uphill battle against economic and cultural deterrents.

JON MARCUS AND MATT KRUPNICK | SEP 27, 2017 | EDUCATION

- Rural students are:
 - Better prepared academically;
 - Less likely to enroll in college; and
 - Highly likely to drop out of college within the first year.

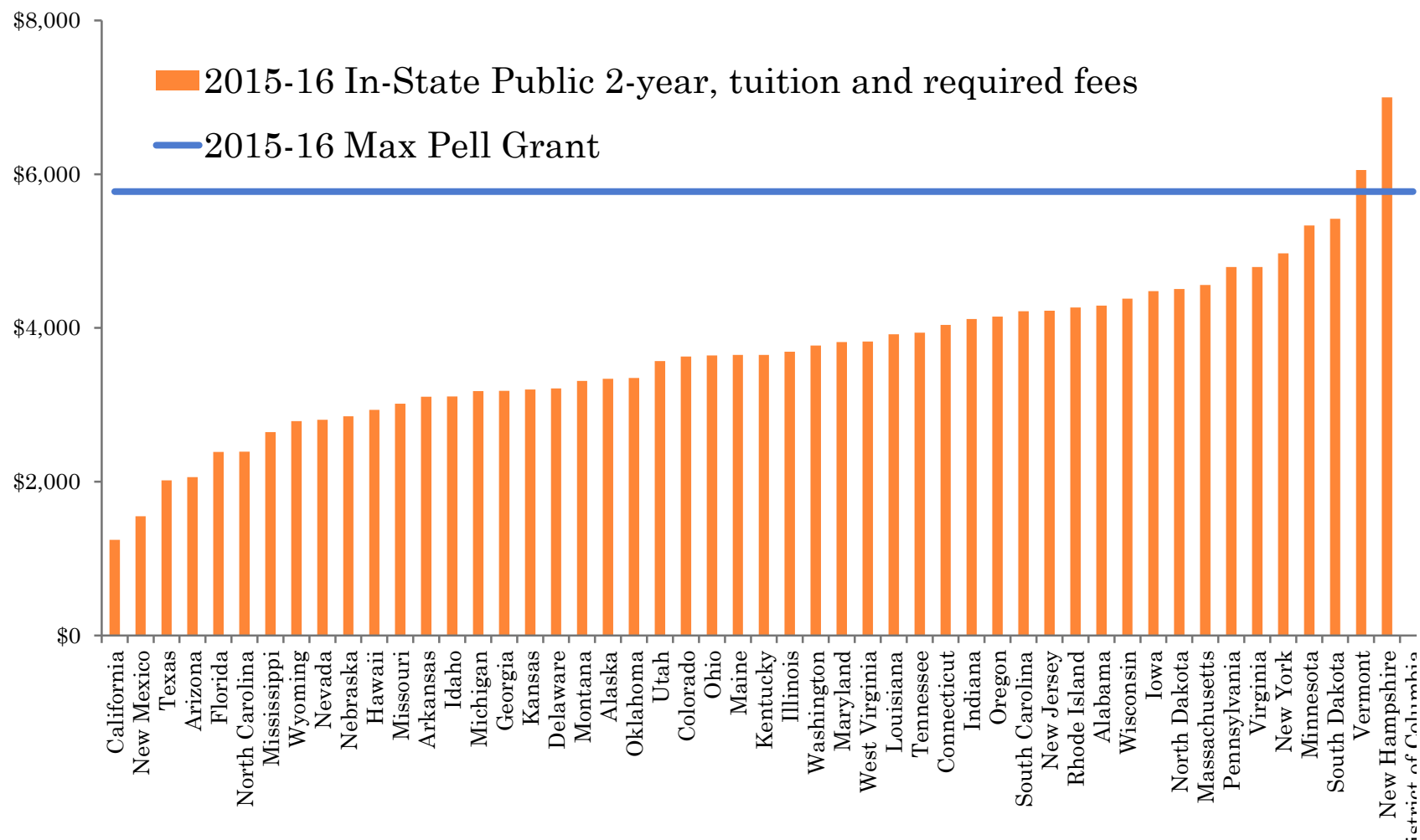
Article available at
<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2017/09/the-rural-higher-education-crisis/541188/>

PUBLIC 2-YEAR TUITION & FEES



Source: U.S. Department of Education. 2016. *Table 330.10*.
https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d16/tables/dt16_330.10.asp?current=yes.

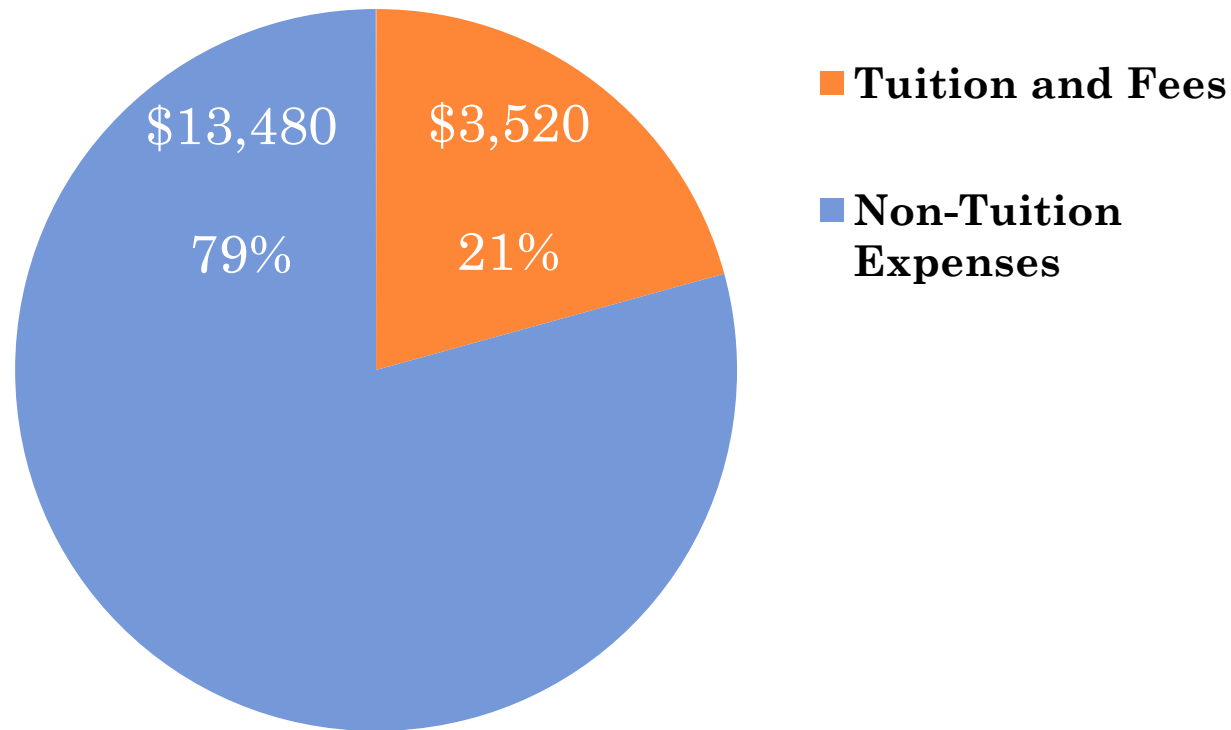
TUITION VS MAXIMUM PELL GRANT



Sources: U.S. Department of Education. 2016. *Table 330.20*.

https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d16/tables/dt16_330.20.asp?current=yes; U. S. Department of Education: <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/fpg/index.html>.

TOTAL COLLEGE COSTS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS, 2016-17



AID'S IMPACT ON ACCESS AND SUCCESS

- Can a student enroll in college?
 - Aid for *tuition* facilitates college access.
- Can the student get to campus regularly, buy the required books and materials, and afford to spend their time in class and studying rather than working?
 - Aid for *non-tuition* costs facilitates college success.

MUCH NEED, LITTLE AID FOR CC STUDENTS

- Community colleges enroll more low-income students than four-year colleges, but students get less aid.
 - Federal Pell Grants are the primary source of financial aid for CC students.
 - Low-income CC students are less likely than four-year college students to receive grants from states or colleges.
 - Relatively few CC students take out federal student loans, and 17% of rural community college students are at colleges that do not make federal loans available.



THE IMPACT OF WORK ON STUDENT SUCCESS

“I only take a couple classes a semester because that is all I can afford at the time, and I have to keep working 30-40 hours a week to pay for everything else.”

“I pay for all of my bills, school, and personal needs with the hours I work. Because of this, it’s taking me much longer to get through school than I would like, and I struggled a lot my first two years with the balance of work and school.”

PROMISE PROGRAMS, BEYOND TUITION

Key questions to ask to ensure low-income students benefit from Promise:

- *Is it possible to extend financial benefits beyond tuition?*
 - Ex. Provide textbook or transportation assistance to students whose Pell Grant covers tuition, establish food pantries.
- *Where are there cracks in the pipeline that need fixing with non-financial interventions?*
 - Ex. Are high school graduates not enrolling? Are enrolled students not completing?