

OCTAE Connection Flash Edition

November 2, 2020

Register NOW! Ability to Benefit Virtual Symposium Hosted by the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE)

The [Coalition on Adult Basic Education](#) is hosting a virtual symposium on [Ability to Benefit](#) (ATB). This virtual symposium is an opportunity to hear from experts about how ATB can move college's stagnant enrollment needle and support low-income students and those without a high school diploma, or its equivalent, in accessing critical financial aid to persist and complete a postsecondary education. From the nuts and bolts of ATB to successful marketing and execution, learn how to boost enrollment and retention.

WHY: The need to engage our most vulnerable populations has never been greater given the pandemic. The latest trends demonstrate issues colleges face in achieving their vision for diversity, inclusion, and equity.

This [National Student Clearinghouse Research project](#) demonstrates that in the last three years, more African Americans and Hispanics took leaves of absence from school, especially this year in March and April when the pandemic hit.

Additionally, there is a drop in [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) applications by lower income students. Some 100,000 fewer high school seniors completed financial aid applications to attend college this year, according to a [National College Attainment Network analysis of FAFSA data](#) through August 2020.

Students from families with incomes under \$75,000 are nearly twice as likely to say they "canceled all plans" to take classes this fall as students from families with incomes over \$100,000, according to a [U.S. Census survey](#) in late August 2020.

WHO: This virtual symposium is designed specifically for community college chancellors, presidents, provosts, financial aid leaders, and registrars.

WHEN: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (EST)

REGISTER: <https://coabe.org/ability-to-benefit/>

Please email info@coabe.org with any questions.

OCTAE website: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/index.html>

email: octae.newsletter@ed.gov

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