

2024



COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING[®]
CONFERENCE

CCBs: An Equitable Solution to Post-Secondary Degree Attainment

July 18, 2024

Illinois Community College Trustees Association

College Changes Everything Conference

Topics

- What is a CCB?
- What is the history of this idea nationally and in Illinois?
- Why is CCB a tool for improving post-secondary equity?
- What do students think of this idea?
- What questions do you have?

What is a CCB?

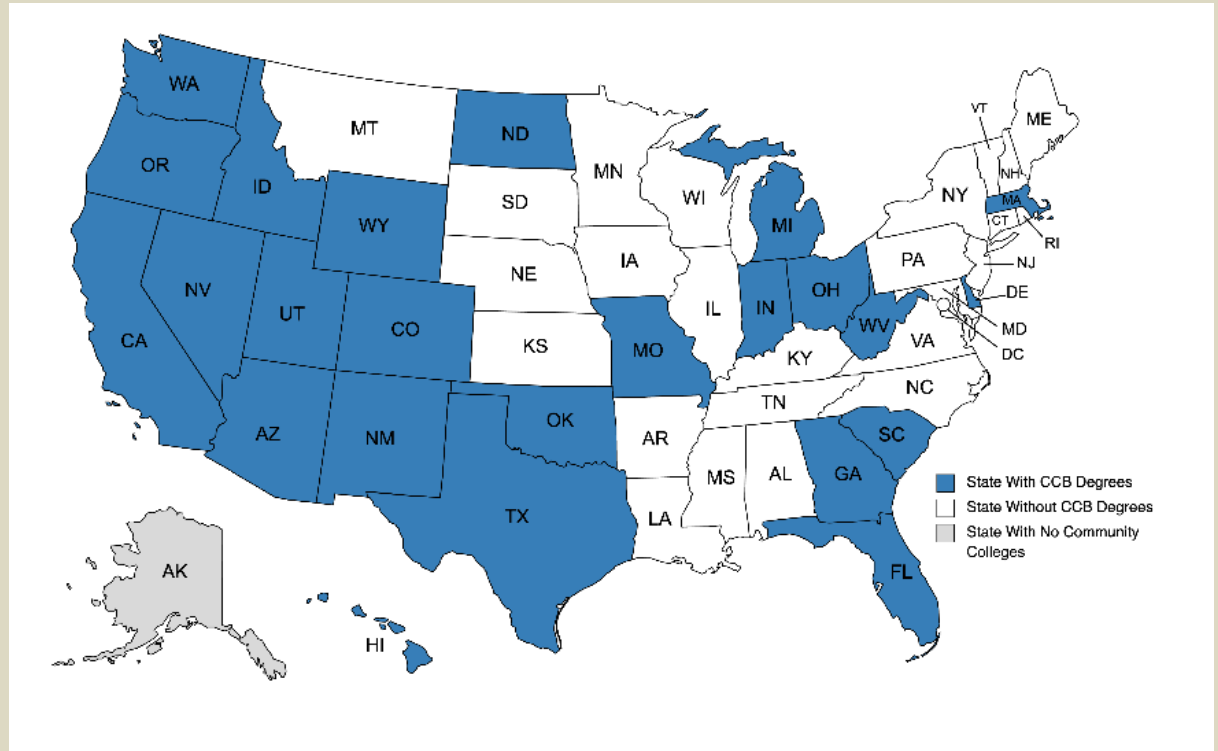
- **A Community College Baccalaureate (CCB) is a bachelor's degree conferred by a community college, i.e., an institution that primarily confers the associate degree as its highest credential.**
- **Most (but not all) CCB degrees are in program areas intended to respond to specific labor market needs (i.e. applied degrees).**

What is the history of this idea nationally and in Illinois?

CCB degrees have been around since 1989.

Twenty-four of the 49 states with community colleges allow the CCB.

Applied degrees (e.g., Bachelor of Applied Science) and Bachelor of Science are the predominant types of CCB degrees found across the country, but the Bachelor of Nursing is also used in many states.



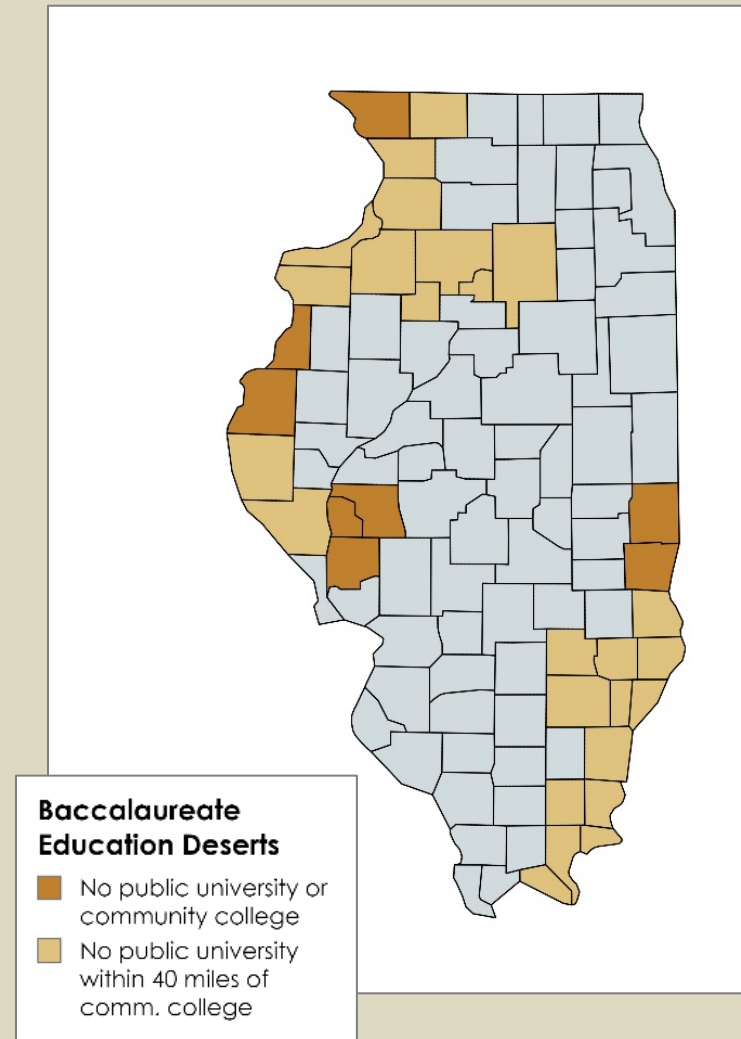
Source: Watch Them Grow: The Evolution of Community College Baccalaureate Degrees in the United States, Community College Baccalaureate Association and Bragg & Associates, Inc. April 23, 2024

Why is CCB a tool for improving post-secondary equity?

According to research conducted by Nicholas Hillman, most students attending a baccalaureate institution do so within 50 miles of home.

Four of Illinois' 25 commuting zones have no community college or public university, and another six CZs have a community college but no public university within 40 miles.

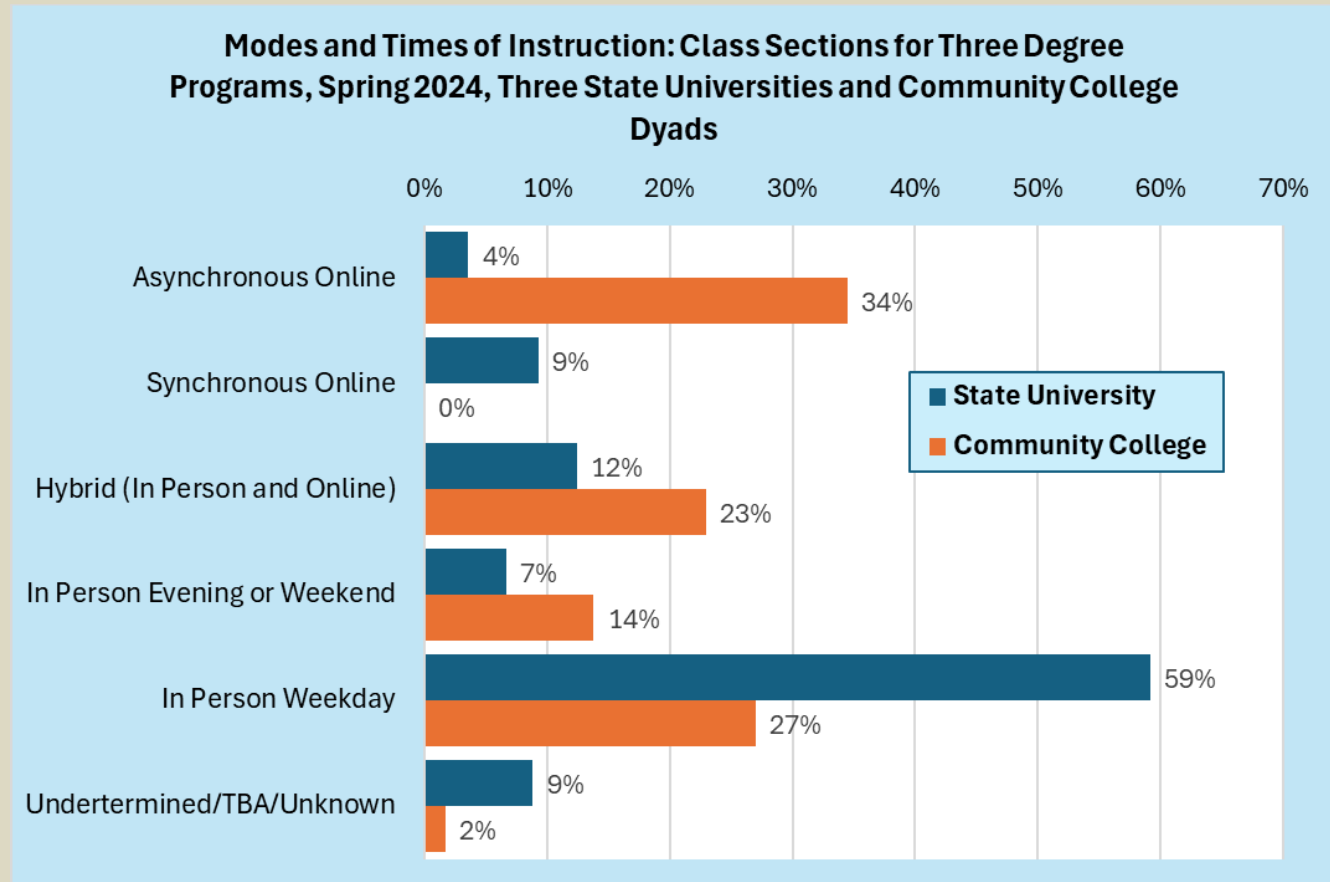
Students within these areas face a significant barrier to accessing bachelor's degree-granting programs.



Source: Hillman, N. (2019). Place matters: A closer look at education deserts. (AcadeMIX Series.) Third Way.

Why is CCB a tool for improving post-secondary equity?

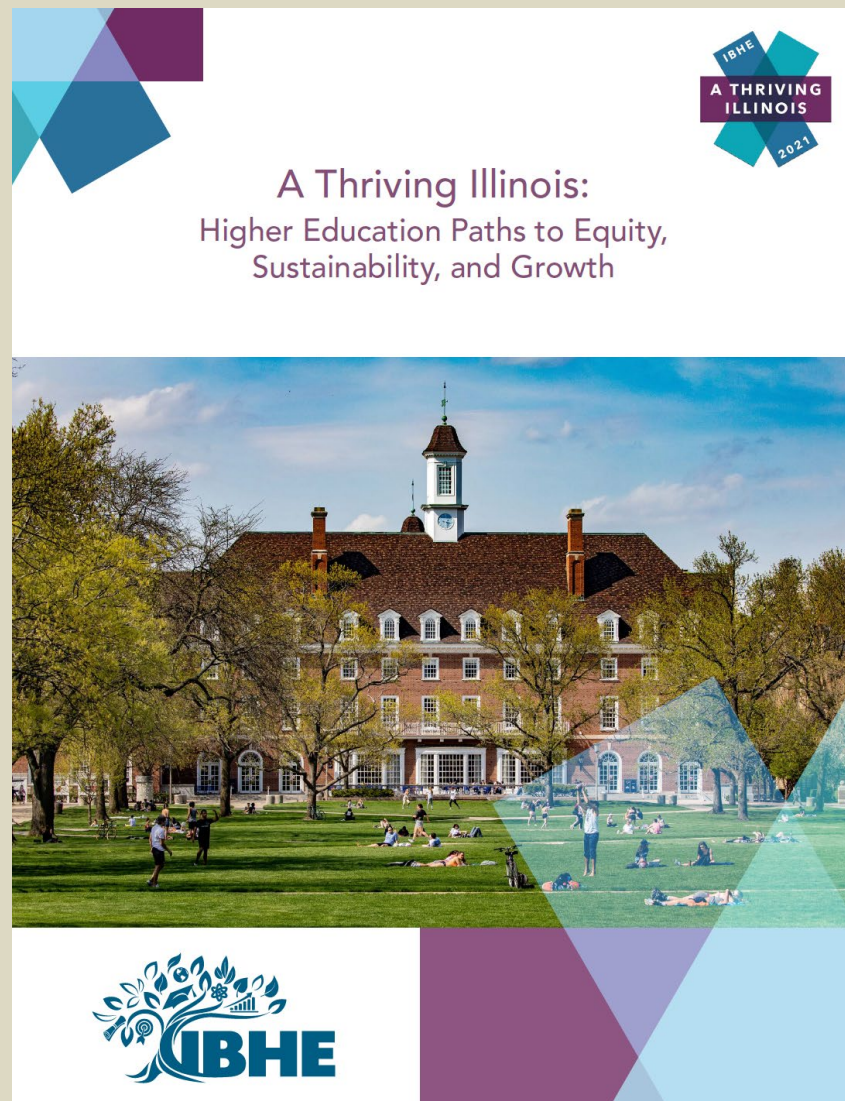
Two-thirds of community college students work, and one-third work full time, according to the AACC. Attending baccalaureate courses that are offered during the day on weekdays is difficult for these students.



Source: Analysis of Spring 2024 class schedules in six Illinois institutions, Workforce Enterprise Services, Inc.

Why is CCB a tool for improving post-secondary equity?

The state's higher education plan (A Thriving Illinois) calls for improving bachelor's attainment to create more equitable opportunities for all Illinoisians to garner living-wage earnings and economic security. Without improvements for racially minoritized and other underserved populations, the state is likely to see continued or even greater inequitable achievement gaps.



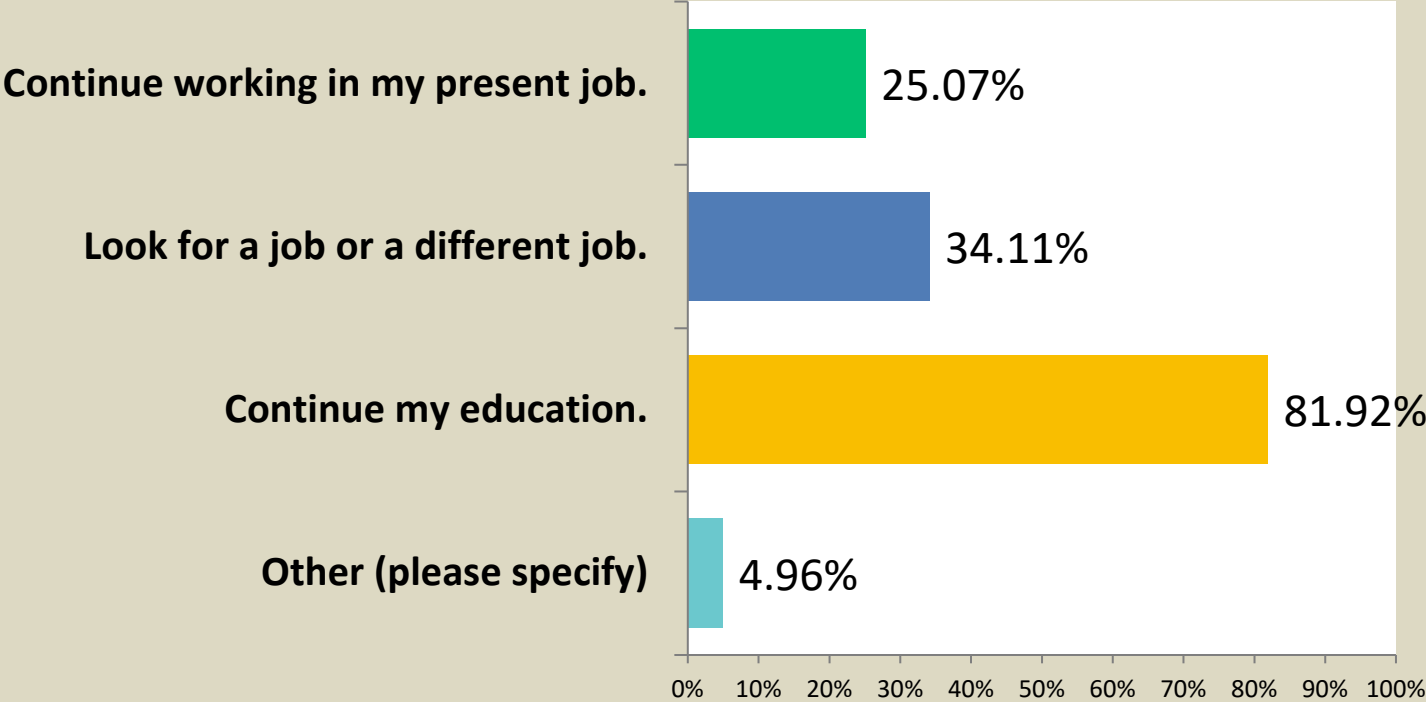
Why is CCB a tool for improving post-secondary equity?

Type of Illinois Higher Education Institution	Institutions with more than 40 percent minority graduates	Institutions with more than 40 percent minority graduates and over 1,000 graduates per year
Community Colleges	14	8
Public Universities	3	2
Private Non-profit College or Universities	6	2
Private For-profit College or Universities	6	2
Totals	29	14

Based on IPEDS completion data, of the 29 Illinois degree-granting institutions where racially minoritized students constituted over 40 percent of total graduates in 2022, 14 were community colleges. And if we look at the subset of these 29 institutions with over 1,000 graduates (14 institutions), community colleges accounted for eight.

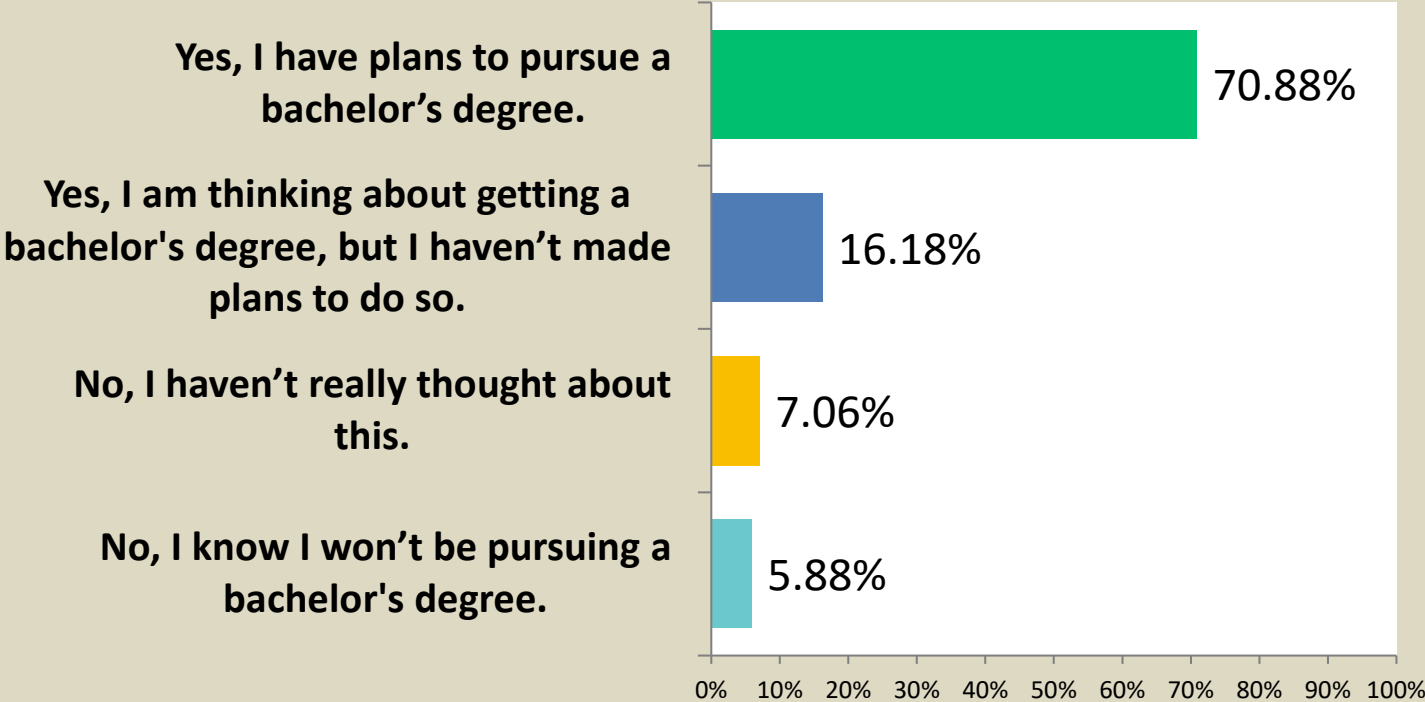
What do students think of this idea?

Once you graduate, what do you plan to do?



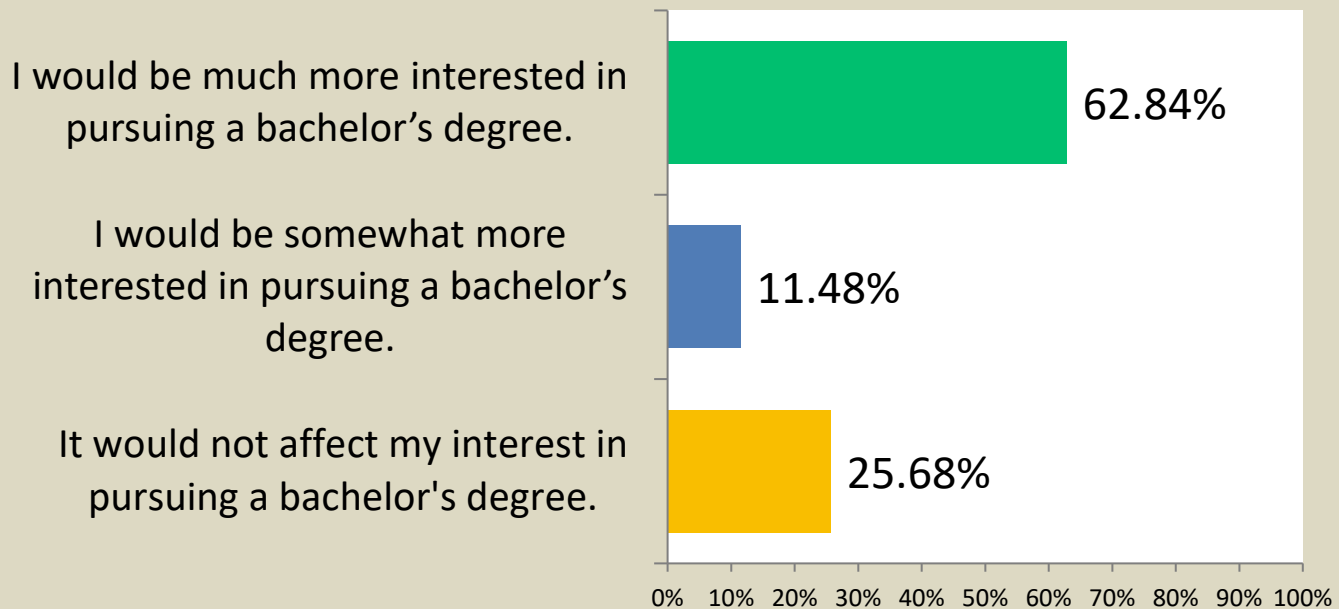
What do students think of this idea?

Have you considered continuing your education to seek a bachelor's degree?



What do students think of this idea?

If your community college offered a bachelor's degree at a lower cost than a four-year university or college, how would that affect your interest in pursuing a bachelor's degree?



Advocacy for CCB in Illinois

- Joyce Foundation support
- CCB Advisory Committee
- Legislative initiatives

Questions and Discussion