Tennessee Promise Contributed to a 40% Increase of Full-Time, First-Time Freshmen Enrollment at Pellissippi State Community College

Tennessee Promise (TN Promise) is a scholarship and mentoring program designed to increase the number of Tennessee high school students who enroll in the state’s 13 community colleges, 27 colleges of applied technology, or other eligible institutions in order to enhance workforce readiness. The award is a last-dollar scholarship, which pays tuition and mandatory fees not covered by other state and federal assistance programs. Pellissippi State Community College, located in Knoxville, Tennessee, enrolls over 11,000 students in 30 associate degree and 32 certificate programs. To maintain the award — renewable for up to five semesters — participants must engage in eight (8) hours of community service per term enrolled and maintain satisfactory academic progress (2.0 GPA).

Figure 1 illustrates the 40% enrollment increase of full-time, first-time freshman enrolled at Pellissippi State Community from fall 2014 through fall 2018. This increase indicates increased access to college.

Figure 1. Total Full-Time, First-Time Freshmen Enrollment at Pellissippi State Community College by enrollment status, fall 2007-fall 2018.
Source: Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Assessment and Planning, Pellissippi State Community College and the NCES Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).
Note: “Not Enrolled TN Promise” refers to students who were no longer enrolled in TN Promise beginning that semester. For the full report, A Snapshot of Tennessee Promise, 2015 – 2018 at https://perc.utk.edu/reports/