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Community College enrollment increases for the sixth straight year.

Charleston, W.Va. - The Community and Technical College System of West Virginia (CTCS) increased fall enrollment by 4.7% over 2009. With 26,692 students, this year's growth reflects a continuing trend, which has seen the System increase total enrollment by 27.1% since 2004.

Adult students continue to be a key growth area for the state's community and technical colleges. Full-time students, older than 25, were the fastest growing segment of students in the state with a 10.3% increase from fall 2009 to fall 2010.

"The System's new Master Plan calls for awarding 16,000 new certificate and associate degrees by 2015," said James Skidmore, Chancellor of the CTCS. "We will reach this goal by increasing accessibility to affordable, technologically advanced community college programs and improving our student graduation rates. We want to enroll and graduate more West Virginians."

In an analysis of 2008 and 2009 enrollment by *Community College Week*, four West Virginia community and technical colleges were included with the fastest growing institutions of their size in the nation. Bridgemont CTC ranked 14th among community colleges with an enrollment less than 2,500. Likewise, Blue Ridge CTC ranked 13th, Mountwest CTC 27th, and New River CTC 40th nationally with an enrollment greater than 2,500 and less than 5,000.

"Enrollment at our colleges has been increasing, and this is a direct result of providing accessible, high-quality education," said Bob Brown, Chair, WV Council for Community and Technical College Education. "During these economic times, technical training enables individuals to succeed in a new career, and provide the skilled workforce necessary to move West Virginia's economy forward."

The CTCS, comprised of 10 institutions, delivers affordable comprehensive community and technical college education in all regions of West Virginia. The WVCTCS graduates individuals prepared to meet the demands of employers or succeed in subsequent education. Through collaboration with various community members, the WVCTCS strives to provide high-quality workforce development programs and increase the college-going rate in West Virginia

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