



## McHenry County College Community Survey

Overview of Data
------------------

In December 2009, UNICOM•ARC conducted a random telephone survey of households in McHenry County College District 528. The purpose of the survey was to learn about community perceptions of and priorities for McHenry County College.

Five hundred (500) surveys were completed from households in the District, and a sample of this size yields an overall error margin of  $\pm 4.4\%$ .

This overview of data provides overall results of every question included in the survey. In results reported for individual questions, the most prevalent response is highlighted in bold. Where appropriate, tables that include multiple questions are sorted by response. Verbatim responses to open-ended questions are included in an appendix to the final report.

		%
1. Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D and Fail to denote the quality of their work. Suppose the quality kindergarten through 8th grade education in your local school district were graded this same way. What grade would you give your local school district for K through 8 educations: A, B, C, D or Fail?	A	22.0%
	<b>B</b>	<b>41.5%</b>
	C	14.2%
	D	3.4%
	Fail	.6%
	other, don't know	18.4%

		%
2. What about the quality of high school education in your local school district? What grade would you give: A, B, C, D or Fail?	A	21.4%
	<b>B</b>	<b>41.1%</b>
	C	11.6%
	D	4.8%
	Fail	.8%
	other, don't know	20.4%

	%
	A
	<b>B</b>
3. Next, what about the community college that serves your area? What grade would you give your local community college: A, B, C, D or Fail?	C
	D
	Fail
	other, don't know

	%
4. Please tell me the name of the community college that serves your area.	<b>McHenry County College (MCC)</b>
	Elgin Community College (ECC)
	Harper College
	Rock Valley Community College
	College of Lake County (CLC)
	other (specify)
	don't know

	%
5. In the past five years, would you say that the quality of education provided by your local community college, McHenry County College has...?	<b>improved</b>
	stayed the same
	declined
	other, don't know

For each of the following statements, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree. The first is...

	<i>strongly agree</i>	strongly/ somewhat agree	strongly/ somewhat disagree	other, don't know
6. It is essential that our area have an excellent community college as a place for adults to be trained and retrained for the jobs of the future.	78.2%	98.6%	1.0%	.4%
8. Having an excellent community college is important to economic development in my area.	67.9%	95.2%	3.8%	1.0%
9. McHenry County College is a place where anyone in our community would feel valued and accepted as a student.	57.5%	88.8%	2.0%	9.2%
7. The quality of education at a community college is not as good as what you might find at a four-year college.	13.6%	41.9%	52.1%	6.0%

I'm going to read words and phrases that people might use to describe a community college. For each, I'd like you to rate it on a seven-point scale. If you think the phrase is very descriptive of McHenry County College -- rate it a seven. On the other hand, if you think it is not at all descriptive of McHenry County College -- rate it a one. Of course, you can use any number between seven and one. Let's start with...

	<i>very descriptive (7)</i>	total descriptive (5-7)	4	total not descriptive (1-3)	other, don't know
18. Affordable	34.1%	78.8%	5.8%	5.4%	10.0%
12. Safe and secure	33.3%	80.0%	4.2%	2.6%	13.2%
10. Welcoming	32.9%	80.0%	5.6%	3.2%	11.2%
13. Reputable	28.9%	77.8%	7.6%	5.4%	9.2%
20. Contemporary or up-to-date	23.6%	75.2%	7.4%	4.2%	13.2%
21. Diverse	22.2%	68.1%	10.0%	6.6%	15.4%
14. Honest	21.6%	72.5%	6.8%	4.6%	16.2%
17. Trustworthy	21.0%	72.7%	6.8%	5.4%	15.2%
15. Accountable	18.2%	66.5%	9.4%	8.2%	16.0%
16. Service-driven	17.0%	67.7%	10.6%	5.8%	16.0%
11. Fiscally responsible	13.2%	59.1%	11.6%	8.6%	20.8%
19. Authoritative	8.8%	52.7%	12.4%	10.2%	24.8%

Using the same seven-point scale, please indicate how descriptive the following phrases are of McHenry County College.

	<i>very descriptive</i> (7)	total descriptive (5-7)	4	total not descriptive (1-3)	other, don't know
22. Conveniently located campus	39.1%	82.8%	7.6%	5.6%	4.0%
29. A valuable source for training and education during an economic downturn	35.3%	79.8%	7.4%	4.4%	8.4%
23. Facilities that are accessible to everyone that uses them	34.5%	80.4%	4.4%	2.0%	13.2%
26. Meets the needs of traditional college-age students	30.9%	78.4%	7.8%	4.2%	9.6%
28. Source of pride for communities in the region	28.3%	74.5%	10.4%	7.4%	7.8%
27. Meets the needs of non-traditional age students	27.3%	75.8%	6.4%	4.8%	13.0%
25. Meets the needs of local residents of all economic levels	27.1%	77.8%	7.4%	4.4%	10.4%
24. Partners with local organizations on important issues	16.8%	61.5%	11.6%	5.0%	22.0%

For each of the following, please indicate whether you think McHenry County College does an excellent, good, not so good or poor job:

	<i>excellent</i>	excellent/ good	not so good/poor	other, don't know
30. Communicating with local residents	18.0%	80.4%	14.8%	4.8%
31. Asking for public input	8.6%	57.1%	30.7%	12.2%
32. Responding to public input	6.4%	57.5%	23.2%	19.4%

	%	
33. What would you say is your primary source of information about McHenry County College?	<b>local newspaper</b>	<b>36.7%</b>
	word of mouth	25.0%
	direct mail from MCC	14.0%
	MCC website or email	4.8%
	US mail	3.6%
	radio	.6%
	community group (e.g., Chamber of Commerce, Rotary)	.4%
	television	.2%
	other (specify)	12.0%
	don't know	2.8%

	%	
34. And what is your second most likely source of information?	<b>local newspaper</b>	<b>26.3%</b>
	word of mouth	23.6%
	direct mail from MCC	12.3%
	MCC website or email	7.6%
	US mail	3.9%
	radio	3.5%
	television	1.8%
	community group (e.g., Chamber of Commerce, Rotary)	1.8%
	other (specify)	9.9%
	don't know	9.2%

	%	
35. How would you prefer to receive information about McHenry County College?	<b>local newspaper</b>	<b>22.2%</b>
	direct mail from MCC	38.9%
	radio	.2%
	television	.4%
	MCC website or email	9.6%
	US mail	13.4%
	word of mouth	1.4%
	community group (e.g., Chamber of Commerce, Rotary)	.2%
	other (specify)	5.4%
	don't know	8.4%

For each of the following items, please indicate whether you would like to receive more information from McHenry County College, less information or whether you receive about the right amount of information.

	would like to receive more	receive about the right amount	would like to receive less	other, don't know
36. traditional college classes and programs	23.2%	<b>66.7%</b>	7.0%	3.2%
37. scholarships and other funding opportunities	<b>47.5%</b>	38.7%	9.0%	4.8%
38. job training programs	41.3%	<b>46.7%</b>	7.4%	4.6%
39. Internet or other distance learning classes	37.9%	<b>47.9%</b>	7.2%	7.0%
40. classes for adults and seniors	36.7%	<b>56.9%</b>	3.2%	3.2%

	%	
41. How aware would you say you are of the McHenry County College Promise?	very	21.0%
	somewhat	29.7%
	not very	14.4%
	<b>not at all</b>	<b>32.5%</b>
	other, don't know	2.4%
	<i>very/somewhat</i>	<i>50.7%</i>
	<i>not very/not at all</i>	<i>46.9%</i>

Let's assume that McHenry County College had a variety of needs. For each of the following needs, tell me how much of a priority you think it should be. If you think it should be a top priority — rate it a 7. If you think it should be a very low priority — rate it a 1. Of course, you can use any number between 7 and 1. Okay?

	<i>very high priority (7)</i>	total high priority (5-7)	4	total low priority (1-3)	other, don't know
45. Maintaining and enhancing safety and security on campus.	39.1%	80.0%	6.8%	7.2%	6.0%
42. Upgrading facilities to support up-to-date educational technologies	34.9%	80.8%	5.6%	6.6%	7.0%
46. Offering expanded dates and times for classes and programs.	31.5%	78.2%	7.8%	6.4%	7.6%
49. Offering more opportunities to take College classes through the Internet or at satellite locations.	28.9%	77.4%	8.4%	7.2%	7.0%
47. Improving facilities to provide a better learning environment for students.	24.4%	75.8%	9.4%	7.6%	7.2%
44. Taking steps to be more environmentally responsible, such as improving the energy efficiency of buildings.	23.6%	67.3%	9.8%	15.2%	7.8%
48. Pursuing alternative energy sources for College facilities, such as wind or geothermal power.	21.4%	61.7%	12.0%	17.0%	9.4%
43. Recruiting and hiring more diverse faculty and staff.	16.0%	57.1%	13.6%	16.0%	13.4%

	%	
50. What is the highest level of education you have completed?	less than high school	.4%
	high school	16.2%
	trade school	2.2%
	some college	23.4%
	associate's degree	9.8%
	<b>four-year degree</b>	<b>28.3%</b>
	graduate school	19.0%
	other, don't know	.8%

	%	
51. Are there any children in your household that are eighteen years of age or younger?	yes	41.7%
	<b>no</b>	<b>57.9%</b>
	other, don't know	.4%

	%	
52. Have you or has any member of your family ever enrolled in a class or program at McHenry County College?	yes -- respondent	18.4%
	yes -- family member	24.4%
	<b>yes -- respondent and family member</b>	<b>24.8%</b>
	no	31.7%
	other, don't know	.8%

		%
53. How often do you visit the campus of McHenry County College?	frequently	4.2%
	occasionally	18.4%
	<b>not very often</b>	<b>50.1%</b>
	never	27.1%
	other, don't know	.2%

		%
54. How likely is it that you will enroll in a class or program at McHenry County College in the next five years?	certain to enroll	7.8%
	probably	28.7%
	<b>probably not</b>	<b>42.7%</b>
	definitely not	20.0%
	other, don't know	.8%

		%
56. What about someone else in your household — are they certain to enroll, will they probably enroll, probably not enroll, or definitely not enroll?	certain to enroll	10.6%
	probably	24.8%
	<b>probably not</b>	<b>39.7%</b>
	definitely not	22.6%
	other, don't know	2.4%

		%
59. Age	18-24	1.2%
	25-45	29.3%
	<b>46-64</b>	<b>43.3%</b>
	65 or over	25.3%
	other, don't know	.8%

		%
60. Ethnicity	<b>White/Caucasian</b>	<b>95.6%</b>
	Black/African-American	.2%
	Latino	.2%
	Asian	.8%
	mixed	.6%
	other (specify)	.2%
	refused, other, no response	2.4%

		%
61. Household income	less than \$50,000	17.8%
	<b>\$50-99,999</b>	<b>37.9%</b>
	\$100-149,999	22.6%
	\$150-199,999	6.6%
	\$200,000 or more	2.4%
	other, don't know, refused	12.8%

		%
62. Gender	male	50.1%
	female	49.9%