



State of Connecticut  
Department of Higher Education

# Facts

## Strategic Plan to Ensure Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Connecticut Higher Education

### PROGRESS TO DATE

The overall goal of the Board of Governors' *Strategic Plan to Ensure Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Connecticut Higher Education* is to ensure that the racial and ethnic make-up of students, graduates and professional staff reflect the minority composition of the state's population as a whole.

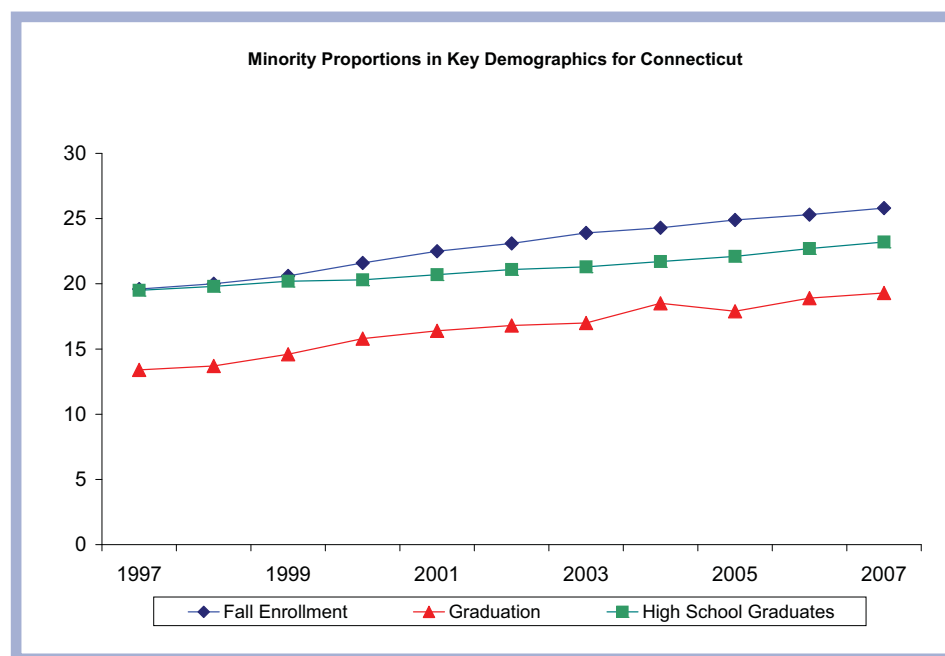
Each year, the Board of Governors examines the state's progress in improving diversity across its public college campuses. Highlights of progress as of April 2008 appear below.

#### 1. Minority undergraduate enrollment at Connecticut's public colleges and universities exceeds the percentage of minority residents in state's total population for the 10th consecutive year.

- Minority group members are 25.8% of all undergraduates and 24.2% of the state's general population.

#### 2. Minority students achieved this percentage based on high enrollment at the state's community colleges but remain underrepresented at the University of Connecticut and Connecticut State University.

- Minority students make up 33.2% of community college enrollments but only 19.5% of UConn and 18.0% of CSU students.



#### 3. Minority students remain less likely to graduate than majority students, so their share of degrees lags behind their share of enrollment.

- Minority students received 19.3% of all undergraduate degrees while holding a 25.8% share of enrollment.
- This gap, however, is narrowing as the growth rate since 1997 of minority graduates exceeds the growth in total minority enrollment.

#### 4. Hispanic/Latino students are the only minority group whose undergraduate enrollment falls

#### below their share of total state population but this gap is closing.

- Hispanic/Latinos make up 10.0% of all undergraduates and 11.2% of the state's general population.
- The rate of growth in enrollment by Hispanic/Latinos exceeds that of all other minority groups combined.

To help public colleges and universities achieve the intent of the Board's *Strategic Plan*, the Department of Higher Education administers three recruitment and retention programs known collectively as **the Minority Advancement Plan** which serves some 3,800 students each year.



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### MINORITY ADVANCEMENT PLAN

#### **1** Connecticut College Access and Success (ConnCAS) Program

- ConnCAS provides incentive funds to support outreach, admission and retention activities.
- Summer transition or bridge programs are the most effective strategy employed by this program.

#### **2** Connecticut Collegiate Awareness and Preparation (ConnCAP) Program

- ConnCAP is a college preparatory program that provides six weeks of intensive summer instruction in core high school courses to under-achieving middle and high school students. During the school year, ConnCap provides tutoring, counseling, career exploration and assistance with college and financial aid applications.

#### **3** Connecticut State GEAR UP Project

- GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) serves 10,000 students in grades 9 – 12 in New Haven and Bridgeport.
- Now in its second cycle of federal funding, the 6-year \$18 million GEAR UP initiative focuses on improving student math skills based on research showing that students who take upper level math courses are better prepared and more likely to graduate from college.
- As a result, GEAR UP's principle goal is to increase number of 8th graders who complete Algebra I, expecting that these students will subsequently take advanced math courses.