

America's College Graduation Rates Stagnating

ELLEN LI
News Editor

As high school seniors prepare to complete and submit their college applications this fall, many of them are more stressed about getting into college rather than graduating from college. However, what they do not realize is that applying is only the first of many steps to be taken in the pursuit of a higher education.

According to the "Pathways to Prosperity" study conducted by the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2011, only 56 percent of college students complete four-year degrees within six years. As for those who enroll in community colleges, only 29 percent of those students are able to earn their degrees within three years.

Thus, the majority of students who choose to pursue a higher education after college fail to earn a degree on time, if they even complete their degree. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the US now has the highest col-

lege dropout rate in the industrialized world.

There are a variety of reasons as to why students drop out of

cannot see a clear connection between their studies and tangible opportunities in the labor market.

Whatever the case may be, a college education is still seen as vital to attaining future success.

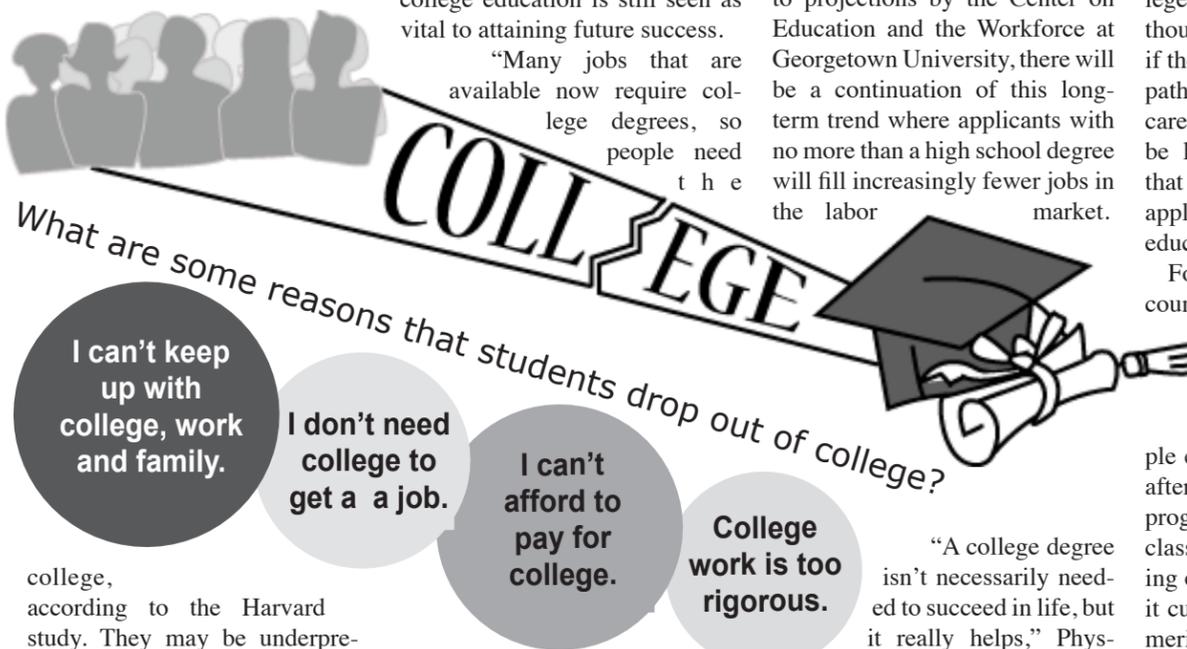
"Many jobs that are available now require college degrees, so people need the

all of the net job growth in America has been created by positions that require at least some post-secondary education. According to projections by the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University, there will be a continuation of this long-term trend where applicants with no more than a high school degree will fill increasingly fewer jobs in the labor market.

the underlying problem is that our current system behaves as though the only acceptable route to success is through a four-year college education, so students feel as though they cannot do well in life if they wish to explore alternative paths. It states that high school career-focused pathways should be linked to college majors so that students can see the real life applications and value that their educations have.

For instance, in European countries such as Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland, a significant portion of young people enter an educational program after grades nine or ten. These programs typically combine classroom and workplace learning over the next three years, and it culminates in a certificate with merit in the labor market.

Although the US does not currently offer these more diverse career pathways, they may be considered for the future.



lege, according to the Harvard study. They may be underprepared for the rigors of academic work in college. Others cannot cope with the demands of family, work and school. The financial burden of attaining a degree may be too great. Or, perhaps they

preparation and knowledge to do what they're trying to do," senior Devonne Hwang said.

Over the last several decades,

"A college degree isn't necessarily needed to succeed in life, but it really helps," Physics teacher Ernie Chen said. "Statistically, [students] have a much better chance in life with a college diploma."

According to the Harvard study,

MOOR graphic by SHARON XU

Legislative Meetings Give Voice to Students

SUSANNA AIGA
DENISE TIEU
Staff Writers

AHS' body of government reflects the United States branches of government. In both, legislature creates laws and amends laws, if necessary, in order to serve the general public.

Every year, legislative meetings are held from the beginning of the school year to the end. This year's meetings, facilitated by advisers Dorothy Burkhart and David Jauregui, will be carried out during fourth period

in the cafeteria beginning Sept. 24.

Student representatives are chosen by their respective classes, and their job is to accurately represent the interests of students by attending the meetings and relaying any messages from Associative Student Body (ASB) to their class.

With the assistance of student representatives, the voice of the student body will be projected to ASB through legislative meetings.

"We want to ensure

that everyone has a voice, and legislative meetings are the easiest way [to do that]," ASB adviser Jocelyn Castro said.

Legislature intends to receive the opinion of all students and to

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-Jocelyn Castro

communicate it to ASB.

With the recommendation of legislature, the communication between students and ASB will improve

and democracy will be endorsed in the school setting as well.

"[Legislature has been] implemented so ASB can have better communication between students and [the student] govern-

ment. [They] are important because there isn't much trust in student government, and [with the meetings it will] re-establish camaraderie,"

Legislature Vice President Daniel Castaneda said.

Beginning this year, the meetings will take place during fourth period instead of third period. For convenience, legislative meetings, homeroom and Bulletin have all been changed to fourth period. "Student representatives will attend if [legislative meetings take place] during school," Speaker of Legislature Helen Huang said.

The usage of student representatives is a way

for ASB to reach out to individual classes and students. This type of open forum stresses the point of generating student and teacher participation.

When more students contribute to legislature, it will allow for a larger variety of opinions and an increase of accurate representation of the student body.

"I volunteered [to become a student representative] because I wanted to inform both myself and students about upcoming events and activities" student representative Eddie Chang said.

October Calendar of Events in AHS

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 collab. schedule | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 CSU workshop | 9 CSU workshop | 10 CSU workshop collab. schedule | 11 CSU workshop | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 Letter of Rec. workshop | 16 UC workshop | 17 PSAT Minimum Day | 18 College Fair Minimum Day | 19 End of first quarter | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 collab. schedule | 25 Disaster Drill | 26 Homecoming Assembly | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 Haunted House @AHS | 31 Haunted House @AHS collab. schedule | | | |

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