THINK YOU KNOW THE FACTS?
TODAY’S COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE...

BALANCING MULTIPLE RESPONSIBILITIES

- 75% of college students commute to class while juggling parenting, working, and both.
- 40% attend school only part-time.
- Students work on average 19 hours per week.
- About 40% of community-college students work 20 or more hours per week.

OLDER AND MORE RACIALLY DIVERSE

- 38% of all today’s undergraduates are older than 25.
- Enrollment among Hispanic students tripled since the mid-1990’s.
- And black student enrollment grew by 72%.

The vision that most of us have of college students – 18- to 21-year-olds who attend school full-time – only make up about a third of the college population.

And those trends are expected to continue through 2021, with black enrollment projected to grow by 25% percent, Hispanic students projected to increase by 42 percent, and only a 4 percent increase in white students forecasted.

To view all sources for data used in this document, please visit www.luminafoundation.org/todays-student-citations.
FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THEMSELVES... AND OFTEN STRUGGLE TO MAKE ENDS MEET

ALMOST HALF OF TODAY’S STUDENTS ARE ON THEIR OWN FINANCIALLY. HALF OF THOSE STUDENTS (25%) HAVE FINANCIAL DEPENDENTS OF THEIR OWN.

4.8 MILLION POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS ARE PARENTS, AND OF THOSE, 61 PERCENT HAVE NO MONEY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COST OF COLLEGE.

88 PERCENT OF SINGLE STUDENT-PARENTS HAVE INCOMES BELOW 200 PERCENT OF THE POVERTY LINE.

LESS LIKELY TO GRADUATE

STUDENTS WITH ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL, WORK AND FAMILY OBLIGATIONS ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL IN THEIR FIRST YEAR AS STUDENTS FRESH OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL – 38 PERCENT COMPARED TO 16 PERCENT.

NO MORE THAN A QUARTER OF PART-TIME STUDENTS MAKE IT TO GRADUATION, EVEN WHEN GIVEN TWICE AS LONG TO COMPLETE.

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