

MEMO

FROM: Allan Rodgers

DATE: 2/23/18

RE: Program vs Enrollment Count among Similar Colleges

This memo introduces the concept of program density – the average number of students in our programs – vs. other colleges.

The IPEDS database was sourced for a list of colleges and their enrollments based on these filters:

1. “Degree of Urbanization” density information with three rural categories; Fringe, Distant and Remote (we’re the latter).
2. UG-granting as defined as associate degrees, bachelor’s degrees, and certificates that require less than 4 academic years of study.
3. Enrollment data - to tell us which schools have 1600, 1000 or 5000 students.

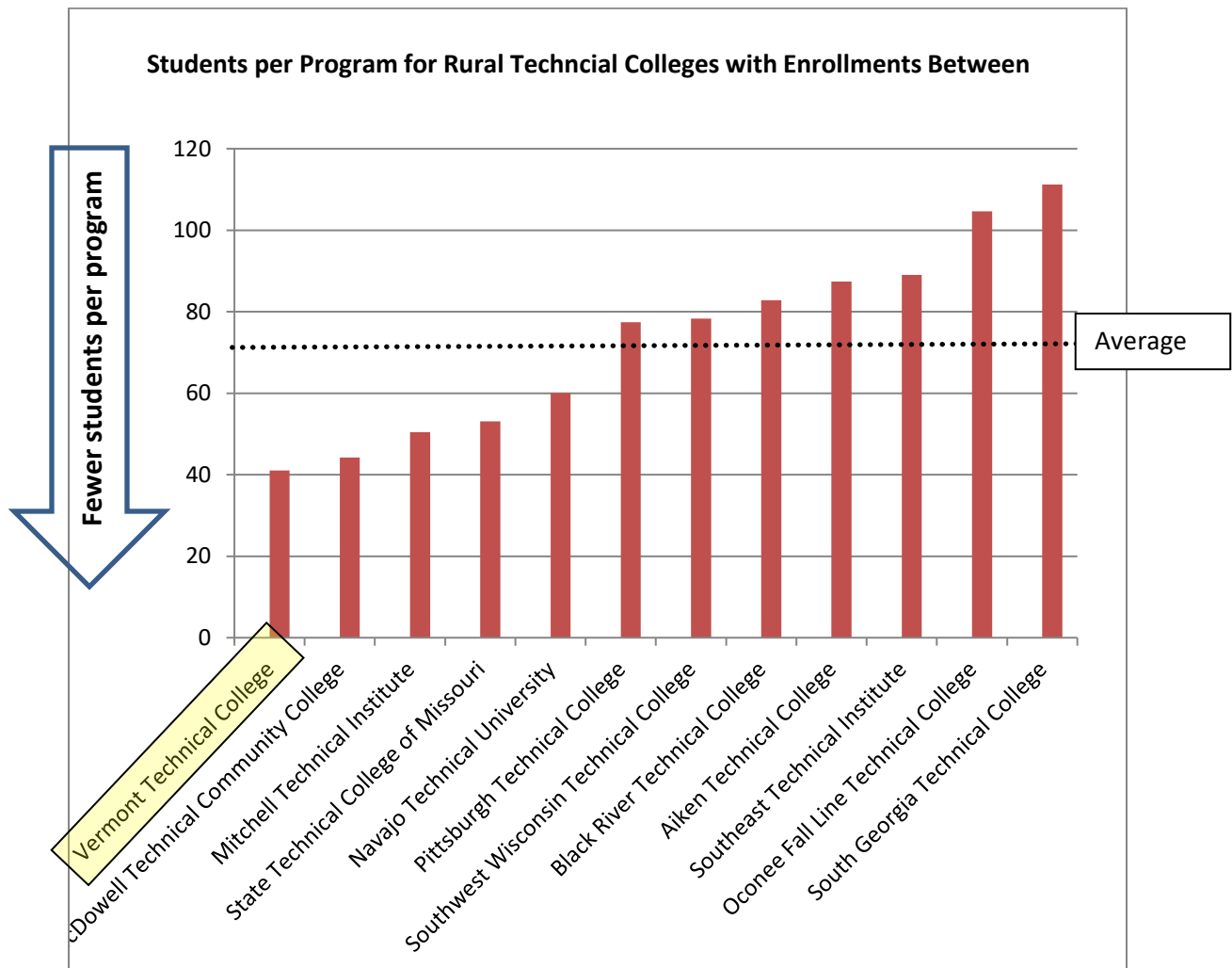
I selected all the colleges between 1000 and about 2000 students with the word “Technical” in their name.

I then went to each college’s website and counted the degrees offered. No certificates were counted. In the same way, I counted the number of programs we offer. The results follow. The # STUD/# PROGRAMS is a program density figure. In general a higher number would indicate more students in any one program on average.

I also reviewed prior catalogs to establish historical numbers.

While we can arguably reduce the program count by combining degrees within a department, a similar reduction would occur among the comparison colleges.

Enrollment Total of all Rural Schools (Fringe/Distant/Remote) that are Undergraduate granting			NUMBER OF DEGREE PROGRAMS	# STUD/ # PROGRAMS
UnitID	Institution Name	STUD		
231165	Vermont Technical College	1559	38	41
198923	McDowell Technical Community College	1106	25	44
219189	Mitchell Technical Institute	1261	25	50
177977	State Technical College of Missouri	1274	24	53
187596	Navajo Technical University	1681	28	60
215415	Pittsburgh Technical College	1936	25	77
239910	Southwest Wisconsin Technical College	2114	27	78
106625	Black River Technical College	1739	21	83
217615	Aiken Technical College	2359	27	87
219426	Southeast Technical Institute	2047	23	89
420431	Oconee Fall Line Technical College	1569	15	105
141006	South Georgia Technical College	1668	15	111
160481	Fletcher Technical Community College	1951	completely unintelligible	#VALUE!
217837	Northeastern Technical College	1054	completely unintelligible	#VALUE!
			AVERAGE =	73



Observations:

1. We have the lowest student per program numbers of all the schools in the filtered categories. This was not planned or expected.
2. The average student per program in this group is 73; VTC is 41. We would need to **reduce to 22 programs to achieve the average** program density in this category.
3. In 2007, we had 30 listed programs and approximately 1600 students. Our average program density was 53 (compared to 41 today – a 23% reduction).
4. Our most negative financial conditions have paralleled the reduction in program density. Causality is not implied or denied.
5. In 2006-2007, we listed 68 full time faculty. Today we list 78 full time faculty. The faculty to program ratio in 2006-2007 was 2.3. Today it is reduced to 2.05. The actual faculty density has decreased, implying greater efficiency in academic delivery.
6. Today we list 136 staff. In 2006-2007, we listed 126 staff. The staff density per program has decreased from 4.2 (126/30) to 3.6 (136/38), implying greater efficiency in staff activities.

Addendum - October 2018:

A reduction in total programs to 32 would move us to a stud/programs ratio of 48.7, moving us up one step in the analysis, but still keeping us near the bottom of efficiencies as based on this ratio. The question of “why 32?” relates to the rate of acceptable change. The college will continue to develop new programs and should identify programs that may no longer be current, where market demand has diminished, etc. As such, a simple netting of one new program and two reductions creates a trend resulting in 32 programs in 2023. While arguably over simplified, the principle of consolidating our programs rather than expanding and diluting our efforts is more important that the actual number and 32 serves a nominal goal, which will likely be modified as future trends become clearer.

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Beginning	38	37	36	35	34	33
Add	1	1	1	1	1	1
Deduct / Merge	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ending number programs	37	36	35	34	33	32