

This volume reexamines the community colleges functional missions in the context of both long-established and emerging societal missions. Written for college leaders, scholars, and policymakers, *Community College Missions in the 21st Century* addresses the most pressing questions concerning community colleges, including: Is the societal mission of a community college to provide postsecondary education to students who might not otherwise obtain it, or to be responsive to the needs of local communities, including business and industry? Should its dominant functional mission be to provide transfer education so that students can eventually attain a baccalaureate, or should the institution concentrate on workforce training and continuing education? Given demographic shifts and pressures to be accountable and demonstrate student learning, are the traditional community college missions still relevant? What makes discussions of community college missions so intriguing is that the answer to each of these questions is potentially yes, depending on ones perspective on the role of community colleges in Americas education system. This volume examines these questions and others through various perspectives, using specific case studies and examining broader, more national perspectives. This is the 136th volume of *New Directions for Community Colleges*, a quarterly journal published by Jossey-Bass. [Click here to view the entire list of titles from New Directions for Community Colleges.](#)

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