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Monday, January 29, 2007

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Study: Most grads stay in Ky.

95% figure up sharply from 2000 survey

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The Courier-Journal

The vast majority of people who earn degrees at Kentucky's public colleges and universities stay in the state after graduating, according to a study released by the state's Council on Postsecondary Education.

The study -- which compared 2006 figures with a 2000 study -- also found that more out-of-state students are choosing to stay in Kentucky after earning their degrees. Roughly half of international students also remain in state.

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"It tells us one, that the emphasis on educational attainment is working, and two, that the economic development strategy is also working because people are staying here," council President Tom Layzell said.

The study, released Friday, showed that 95



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percent of in-state graduates stayed in Kentucky compared with 83 percent in the 2000 study. Out-of-state students who stayed rose to 37 percent from 24 percent.

The council also released a second report measuring progress in several key areas, ranging from enrollment to accountability.

On the plus side, scores on ACT college entrance

and Advanced Placement exams are up at state universities, more GED recipients are enrolling in college and more minorities are being awarded degrees.

However, the report found state universities are losing ground when it comes to affordability for all families, including those with low incomes, and student loan debt is on the rise.

"Affordability is going to be a continuing concern," Layzell said.

Reporter Nancy Rodriguez can be reached at (502) 582-7079.

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Give me the rest of the numbers. Has enrollment dropped because of tuition cost. An increase in percentage staying might be offset by a smaller number of graduates.

What about private colleges. Are graduates from places like Bellarmine staying in KY?

And what about Kentuckians leaving the state for an education. Are those Vandy grads, the Harvard grads etc coming back to KY?

The 2000 census data indicated a serious decrease in the number of 20-40 yr olds in this community, while places like Nashville, Indianapolis, and Charlotte grew substantially in that group. I hope we are truly reversing that trend, but show me all the numbers.

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