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PRESS RELEASE

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More Hamilton County Graduates Enrolling in College

73% of last May's Graduates Enrolled in College for Fall 2007

Chattanooga, TN --- The number of Hamilton County students enrolling in higher education continued to climb in 2007, when 72.9 percent of May graduates enrolled in college. The percentage is up from 70.0 percent in 2006 and 68.7 percent the year before. The actual number of May graduates enrolling in college rose from 1324 in 2005 to 1534 in 2007.

According to Hamilton County School Superintendent Dr. Jim Scales, the numbers reflect hard work on the part of principals and teachers, along with a growing community expectation that all students should have the opportunity and skills to attend college if they choose. "A college degree presents a young person with options and opportunities that they cannot get otherwise, and we want to open those doors to as many of our students as possible. That is why we made it part of our strategic plan," said Dr. Scales.

"The business community has been telling us in no uncertain terms that they want a better-educated workforce, and the fact of the matter is, many of today's jobs require a college degree," Dr. Scales added.

Hamilton County graduates headed off to colleges and universities in 31 states, plus the District of Columbia; Ottawa, Canada; St. Kitts, West Indies, and even Tokyo, Japan. Geographically, they can be found from Washington State to Massachusetts and from Southern California to the tip of Florida at schools like Emory, Vanderbilt, Rutgers, Wake Forest, Tulane, UMass and NYU.

The effect of the Tennessee HOPE scholarship is evident in Hamilton County's college going rate. Roughly 90 percent of local graduates enrolled in Tennessee institutions, taking advantage of tuition assistance. Of those, 120 students are headed to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, 370 are enrolled at UTC, and 509 are attending Chattanooga State.

Of the May graduates who enrolled in college, 62% enrolled in 4 year colleges, up from 57% last year.

Attending these schools will give Hamilton County graduates a leg up in their future endeavors. The Education Resources Information Center, a federally-funded information clearinghouse, has estimated that a person entering the work force with a college degree will earn \$1.2 million more over the course of a lifetime than a person entering the work force with only a high school diploma. The U.S. Department of Labor reports that today's school children will have 10 to 14 different jobs by the time they reach their 38th birthday, and they'll have a lot of global competition. In 2006, India and China graduated 3.1 million and 3.3 million students from college compared to the United States' 1.3 million.

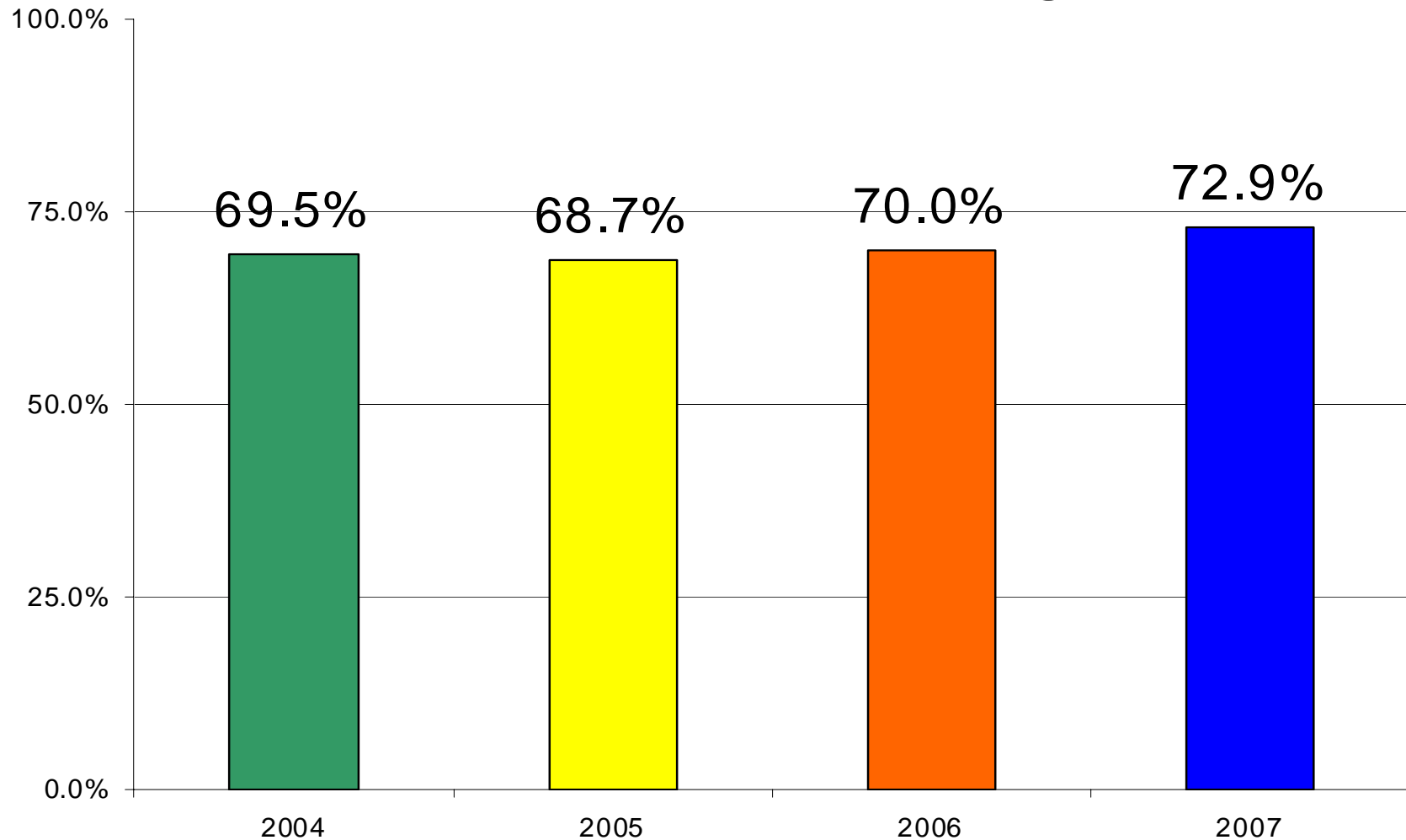
"The fast-changing world means that students of today will need to be lifelong learners," says Dan Challenger, President of the Public Education Foundation. "Five years ago, the district began a dramatic reform initiative with support from the Carnegie Corporation, PEF and others, to make sure that Hamilton County students have as many options as possible and achieve as much success as possible. We're proud that this work has helped so many students."

One of the goals of high school reform was to help more students have access to college, and as partners with the Partnership for College Access and Success, the College Access Center, UTC, Chattanooga State, the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga, PEF and many others, the district has been able to place half-time college advisors in each high school. These advisors provide information and encouragement to students who are interested in college.

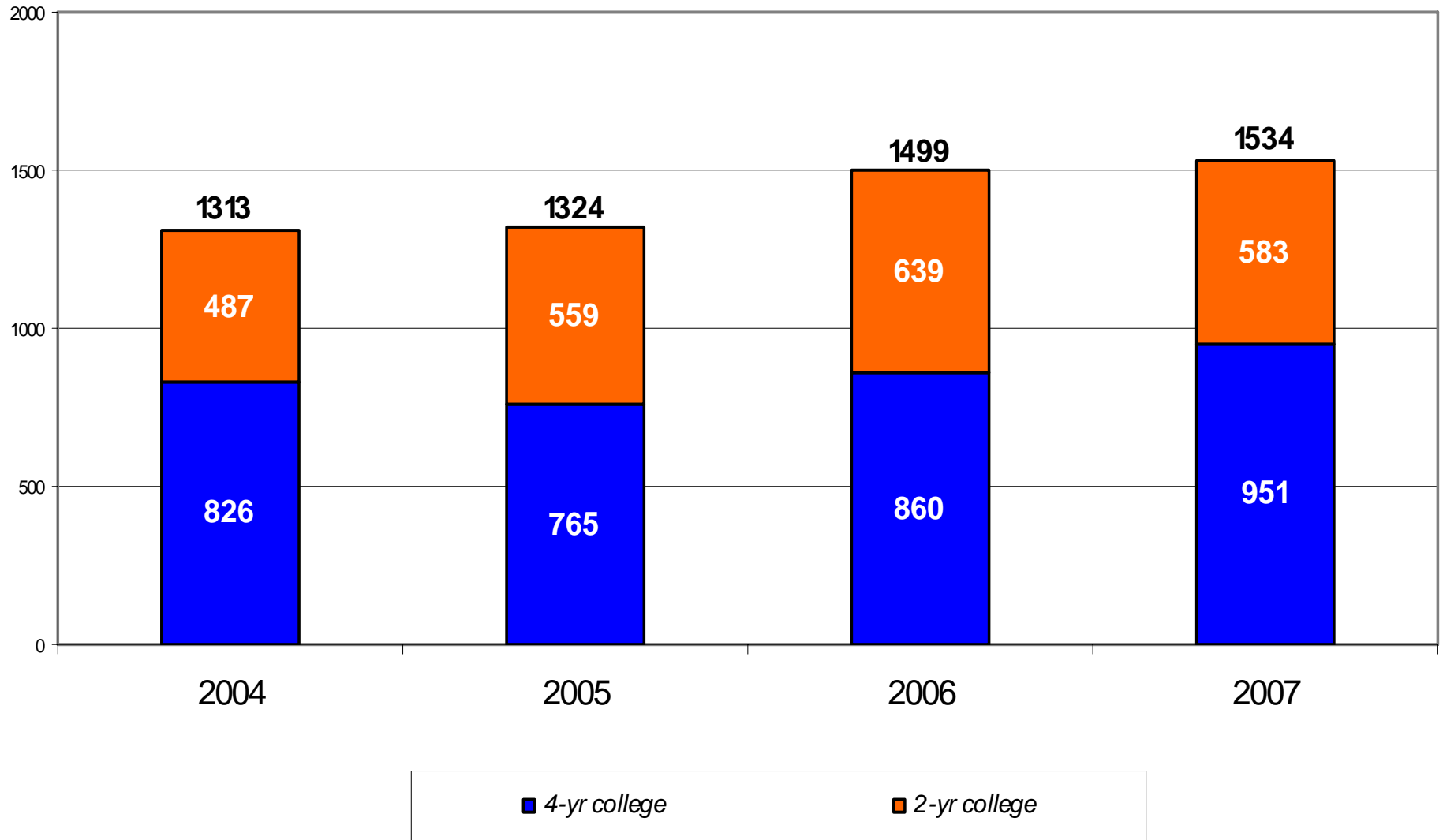
"These college advisors are a big help to our students. They help them navigate through the puzzling maze of the application and financial aid processes," says Dr. Scales. "It's just one more indication of the great things happening in Hamilton County Schools."

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Percentage of May Graduates Enrolled in College



Number of May Graduates Enrolled in College



Class of 2007 May Graduates Enrolled in the following colleges

Alabama

ALABAMA A & M UNIVERSITY
AUBURN UNIVERSITY
CALHOUN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF THE AIR FORCE
GADSDEN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MILES COLLEGE
SAMFORD UNIVERSITY
TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA BIRMINGHAM
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
UNIVERSITY OF WEST ALABAMA

Arizona

GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY

California

FASHION DESIGN INSTITUTE LOS ANGELES
PASADENA CITY COLLEGE

Colorado

COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

Florida

BEREAN BAPTIST COLLEGE
BREVARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EMBRY RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY
MANATEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PALM BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA
WORD OF LIFE BIBLE INSTITUTE

Idaho

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

Illinois

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO
JOHN A LOGAN COLLEGE
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Indiana

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Kansas

PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Massachusetts

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

Georgia

AMERICAN INTERCONTINENTAL UNIVERSITY
ART INSTITUTE OF ATLANTA
BERRY COLLEGE
COVENANT COLLEGE
DALTON STATE COLLEGE
EMORY UNIVERSITY
GEORGIA COLLEGE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY
LE CORDON BLEU CULINARY ARTS INSTITUTE
MERCER UNIVERSITY
NORTH GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE
NORTHWESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE
OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY
SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Kentucky

CAMPBELLSVILLE UNIVERSITY
CENTRE COLLEGE
EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
GEORGETOWN COLLEGE
MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY
SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SULLIVAN UNIVERSITY

Louisiana

DILLARD UNIVERSITY
NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
TULANE UNIVERSITY

Minnesota

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Missouri

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

Mississippi

MILLSAPS COLLEGE
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

New Jersey

RUTGERS -THE STATE UNIVERSITY

New Mexico

SAN JUAN COLLEGE

Oklahoma

ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY

North Carolina

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE
CATAWBA COLLEGE
CRAVEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY
SAINT AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
WARREN WILSON COLLEGE
WINGATE UNIVERSITY

New York

AMERICAN MUSICAL & DRAMATIC ACADEMY
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
SUNY HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ohio

CINCINNATI STATE TECH & COMM COLLEGE
MARIETTA COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Rhode Island

JOHNSON & WALES

South Carolina

ANDERSON UNIVERSITY
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
FURMAN UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

South Dakota

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Tennessee

AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY
BELMONT UNIVERSITY
BRYAN COLLEGE
CARSON-NEWMAN COLLEGE
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CUMBERLAND UNIVERSITY
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
FREED - HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY
HIWASSEE COLLEGE
ITT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
JOHNSON BIBLE COLLEGE
KING COLLEGE
LAMBUTH UNIVERSITY
LANE COLLEGE
LEE UNIVERSITY
LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY
MARYVILLE COLLEGE
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
MILLER MOTTE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Tennessee continued

CHATTANOOGA STATE TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY
MILLIGAN COLLEGE
MOTLOW STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
NASHVILLE AUTO DIESEL COLLEGE
NOSSI COLLEGE OF ART
PELLISSIPPI STATE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
RHODES COLLEGE
ROANE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
TENNESSEE TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
TENNESSEE WESLEYAN COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH
TUSCULUM COLLEGE
UNION UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE - MARTIN
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE CHATTANOOGA
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
VIRGINIA COLLEGE

Texas

TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Utah

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

Virginia

EMORY AND HENRY COLLEGE
ROANOKE COLLEGE
SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

Washington

WHATCOM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Wyoming

WYOMING TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Washington, DC

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Canada - Vancouver

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Japan - Tokyo

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

West Indies - St Kitts

WINDSOR UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE