

Survey Shows 73% Of H.S. Seniors Aim For More Education

EAST LANSING. — Seventy-three percent of every 100 of this year's Michigan high school seniors want to go on for some kind of additional education after they are graduated.

Most say they will attend college, and of these, 89 percent choose a college in Michigan. One in four hopes to attend a public community junior college, two out of three a public senior college or university, and eight percent a private college or university.

Of the seniors with B and higher grades, 90 percent plan to continue their education. Of others with C and lower averages, 65 percent want to go on.

These are results of a survey made last fall by Project MEMO, a cooperative program sponsored by all the state's community colleges and Michigan State University, and financed by the U.S. Office of Education's "Talent Search" division.

It included students enrolled in 592 of the 594 public and 154 of the 169 non-public high schools in Michigan.

State Road Toll Hits New High

Despite a reduction in traffic deaths in December, Michigan's road toll for 1966 climbed to an all-time high of 2,243, according to State Police provisional figures.

This annual mark tops the old record of 2,175 set in 1937 and exceeds by 114 or five percent the 2,129 killed in 1965.

It was the sixth time and third year in a row since Michigan began record keeping in 1933 that traffic fatalities have exceeded the 2,000 mark. Other annual highs were 2,122 in 1964, 2,018 in 1955 and 2,133 in 1941.

The provisional toll of 190 in December was 54 or 21 percent less than 244 in that month in 1965 which is the all-time high for any month. The month's average was 178 for five years 1961-65.

Michigan had five months which exceeded the 200-death level in 1966, tying 1936 for this record. These high months last year were May with 207, June with 203, July with 210, August with 204 and October with 201.

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The survey resulted in nearly 100,000 student responses.

Project Director David Schultz pointed out that "the total number hoping to continue education is far greater than any previous study ever has shown in Michigan." Earlier studies by other researchers, who usually covered only a small part of the state, generally reported from 50 to 67 per cent of the seniors planning more education.

A major problem, the MEMO study emphasizes, is the need for each student to choose the right institution for more training. "The school or college where he has a real chance for success, rather than one where his chances are too slim," Schultz pointed out.

There is a place in some kind of program in some school or college for every Michigan high school graduate who really wants to learn more, and there is some kind of aid available to every boy and girl who has proven financial need," he said, "but not every student is making a realistic choice of school or college really suited to his ability level."

"Michigan could use some kind of central clearinghouse that would help students find the right colleges, and help colleges find students who will succeed. An objectively operated Michigan college admissions center" that would do this would benefit the entire state by making an opportunity available to every boy and girl for the maximum amount and kind of education he could absorb."

Some C and lower average seniors indicated they wished to attend a college or university whose standards make their academic success entirely too improbable, Schultz explained. Such institutions properly advise these students to go instead to a less competitive campus where they have a better chance to succeed, he added.

MEMO stands for "More Education, More Opportunity," and its goal is to "help every student use his brains for all they are worth."

MEMO offers no courses and provides no financial aid to students, but works to bring students and educational institutions together and to publicize the greatly expanded new federal Educational Opportunity Grants, work-study program jobs, and NEAA student loans.

The colleges that sponsor MEMO are the Alpena Community College, Bay de Viller Community College, Delta College, Flint Community Junior College, Glen Oaks Community College, Gogebic Community College, Grand Rapids Junior College, Henry Ford Community College, Highland Park College, Jackson Community College, Kellogg Community College, Lake Michigan College and Lansing Community College. Macomb County Community College, Mid-Michigan Community College, Monroe County Community College, Montcalm Community College, Muskegon Community College, North Central Michigan College, Northwestern Michigan College, Oakland Community College, Port Huron Community College, Schoolcraft College, Southwestern Michigan College, Washtenaw Community College and Michigan State University.

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