

# Opportunities to Impact Postsecondary Access and Success in the Midst of Tough Times

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# American Graduation Initiative

- Goal: An additional 5 million community college graduates by 2020 (degrees and certificates)
  - Create Community College Challenge Fund
  - Fund innovative approaches to promote college completion (College Access and Completion Fund)
  - Modernize facilities
  - Create new online skills laboratory

# HR 3221: Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act

- Funded by savings from shifting all student loans to Direct Lending program
- Includes American Graduation Initiative components, along with College Access and Completion Innovation Fund
- Indexes Pell Grant to inflation
- Overhauls the Perkins loan program and increases to \$6 billion/year
- \$1.2 billion for HBCUs and MSIs to provide necessary services to promote completion
- Open online education
- Early Learning Challenge Fund
- Senate now drafting their version. House and Senate will compromise on bill, so details WILL change

# College Access and Completion Innovation Fund

- Funds to promote innovation in postsecondary education practices and policies by institutions, states, and nonprofits to improve student success, completion and post-completion employment, particularly for students from underrepresented groups
- Funds to assist states in developing longitudinal data systems, common metrics, and reporting systems related to goals
- \$600 million each year from FY 2010-2014

# College Access and Completion Innovation Fund (cont.)

- Funds are divided between four purposes:
  - State Innovation Completion Grants (50%): Matching grants to States on a competitive basis to promote student persistence in, and completion of postsec ed
  - College Access Challenge Grants (25%): foster partnerships among federal, state, and local governments and philanthropic orgs through matching grants aimed at increasing number of low-income students prepared to enter, succeed in postsec ed
  - Innovation in College Access and Completion National Activities (23%): Grants of at least \$1 million will be awarded on a competitive basis, to colleges, nonprofits, philanthropic orgs, and other qualified orgs to conduct innovative programs
  - Evaluation (2%)

# Community College Initiative

- Two grant programs
  - Community College Reform Grants (2010-2013)
  - Grants to States for Community College Programs (2014-2019)
  - Jointly administered by Secretaries of Education and Labor
  - Evaluation of Community College Reform Grants will inform Grants to States

# CC Initiative: CC Reform Grants

- Four-year competitive grants for innovative programs OR programs of demonstrated effectiveness, based on evaluations of similar programs, THAT lead to the completion of a postsecondary degree, certificate or industry-recognized credential leading to a skilled occupation in a high-demand industry
- Minimum grant: \$750,000 over the four-year period;
- Priority given to entities that enter partnerships with philanthropic or research orgs with relevant expertise, businesses, labor or are HBCU or MSIs, and serving nontraditional students
- Benchmarks geared toward closing enrollment and completion gaps for underrepresented groups, addressing workforce needs, establishing articulation agreements, improving comprehensive employment and educational outcomes

# CC Reform Grants: Use of Funds

- Developing and implementing policies, programs to expand opportunities for students to earn bachelor's degrees; facilitating transfer of academic credits, expanding articulation agreements
- Expanding or creating academic or training programs which may be carried out with employers, that provide relevant job skill training for high-wage occupations in high-demand industries
- Providing student support services
- Creating workforce programs that provide a sequence of ed and occ. training that lead to industry-recognized credentials
- Building or enhancing linkages, including the development of dual enrollment programs and early college high school between secondary or adult ed programs (including Perkins) and colleges
- Implementing other innovative programs to increase completion rates and the provision of training for students to enter high-wage occupations

# State Grants to CC Programs

- Six-year grants to implement the systematic reform of community colleges located in the state by carrying out programs, services, and policies that demonstrated effectiveness under evaluation of CC reform grants
- At least 90% of funds go to the state's community colleges
- Eligible states must have a plan to increase the State's rate of persistence and completion that takes into account community colleges, have a statewide longitudinal data system, etc.
- Benchmarks similar to CC Reform Grants

# Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems

- Grants to enable SEAs to design, develop and implement statewide, longitudinal data systems to manage, analyze, disaggregate and use individual student data
- Funding should be used to statewide data systems that include P-12, postsecondary and workforce information.
- Grant size: \$2,000,000 to \$20,000,000
- Grant period: up to three years
- Applications due November 19, 2009



# State Fiscal Stabilization Fund

- Direct aid to governors to help save education jobs and drive reform (\$48.6 billion)
- Local Education Agencies may use funds for any activity authorized under ESEA, IDEA, Adult Ed, or Perkins. This includes the modernization of school facilities and covering salaries to avoid teacher layoffs.
- Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) may use funds for education or general expenditures, mitigation of tuition and fee increases, modernization or repair of facilities.

# Race to the Top Fund

- Competitive investment in school reform targeted to states (\$4 billion in two phases)
- Four targets for reform:
  - Adopting internationally benchmarked standards and assessments that prepare students for success in college and the workplace
  - Recruiting, developing, retaining and rewarding effective teachers and principals
  - Building data systems that measure student success and inform teachers and principals how they can improve their practices; and
  - Turning around the lowest performing schools

# Thank you

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