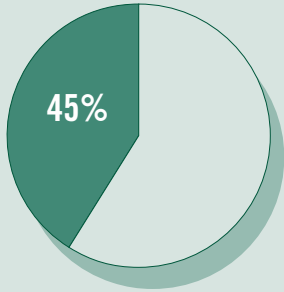


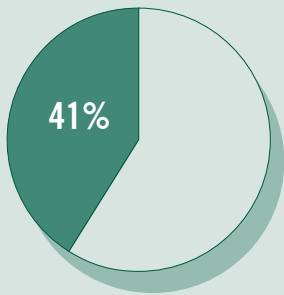
Success Is What Counts

National initiative promotes change to improve student success at community colleges.

Fewer than half of community college students meet their educational goals



Nationally, of community college students who seek an associate degree or higher, 45 percent earn an associate or a bachelor's degree or transfer to a four-year institution within six years.



Nationally, of students enrolled in a certificate program (study oriented toward a particular job or industry), 41 percent achieve that goal, earn a degree or transfer to a four-year institution within six years.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, NCES (2001). Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study 1996–2001 (BPS:96/01). Analysis by Community College Research Center.

1. Carnevale, Anthony P., and Desrochers, Donna M. (July 2004). "Why Learning? The Value of Higher Education to Society and the Individual." Keeping America's Promise, p. 39. Education Commission of the States and the League for Innovation in the Community College.

2. Bailey, T., Kienzl, G., and Marcotte, D. (August 2004). "Who Benefits from Postsecondary Occupational Education?" Findings from the 1980s and 1990s (CCRC Brief No. 23). New York: Columbia University, Teachers College, Community College Research Center.

OPPORTUNITY IS A STARTING POINT, BUT CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES CHANGE LIVES

Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count is a multiyear national initiative to help more community college students succeed. The initiative is particularly concerned about student groups that traditionally have faced the most significant barriers to success, including low-income students and students of color.

Achieving the Dream works on multiple fronts, including efforts at community colleges and in research, public engagement and public policy. It emphasizes the use of data to drive change.

Community colleges enroll almost half of all U.S. undergraduate students, and the American public appreciates their commitment to providing broad access. But access alone isn't enough.

Too many students leave community colleges without earning a degree, earning a certificate or transferring to another institution to con-

tinue their studies. As a result, they risk losing the opportunity to learn and to earn a livable wage. When many students leave community colleges without meeting their academic goals, our country loses opportunities, too.

However, when community college students complete courses, earn certificates and earn degrees, they improve their own lives and benefit the nation. Nationally, nearly six in 10 jobs in today's labor market are held by workers with at least some postsecondary education or training,¹ and that percentage is expected to increase. We rely on community colleges to help prepare these workers.

People with associate degrees generally earn 20 to 30 percent more than people with only high school diplomas.² Higher education also brings all the benefits that greater employment and income bring — health care, lower incarceration rates, greater civic engagement and better opportunities for the next generation.

WE MUST HELP MORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS SUCCEED — IT CAN BE DONE

Educating a competitive workforce, stimulating local economies and helping individuals improve their lives depend on maximizing educational success — for everyone. This is the critical work of community colleges.

Helping more community college students have academic success is the critical work of Achieving the Dream. The initiative's work includes the following:

- Achieving the Dream colleges are being open and forthright about current

performance — and doing what it takes to improve it. Participating colleges work to improve student achievement by basing decisions on student performance data and by making lasting changes in their own practices and cultures. They evaluate their own student achievement data — overall data as well as data broken down by various student groups. They then implement strategies to improve student achievement, closely monitor students' and the college's progress, and share their findings broadly. Colleges are adopting strategies that

continued on reverse

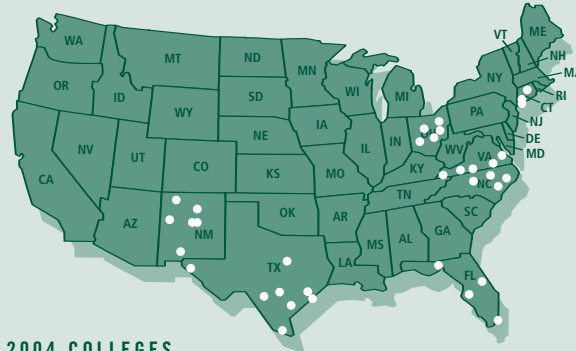
ACHIEVING THE DREAM COLLEGES

include changes in tangible practices, such as a sharper focus on effective developmental education, and less tangible shifts in attitudes and approaches, such as improving institutional research capacity so decisions are based on actual outcomes.

- **Achieving the Dream focuses on measurable outcomes, particularly closing achievement gaps.** There are disparities in student outcomes at community colleges, and Achieving the Dream is focused on identifying and closing these gaps. Specifically, participating colleges are identifying practices that will help more students — particularly students of color and low-income students — continue their studies and earn certificates and degrees. Because many community college students face significant challenges, the obstacles can be daunting: Many community college students are the students who were least well served by their previous education and therefore have the greatest need; they are adults returning to education after a long period of time; and they are individuals of all ages who work, care for dependents and juggle other commitments.

Achieving the Dream includes 10 national partner organizations, 27 community colleges that joined the initiative in 2004, eight community colleges that joined the initiative in 2005 and many dedicated individuals. Lumina Foundation for Education provided funding for the initiative's startup and is providing ongoing funding for many of the participating colleges as well as other elements of the work. KnowledgeWorks Foundation and Nellie Mae Education Foundation are providing additional funding to help support colleges that joined the initiative in 2005.

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For media inquiries, contact Robert Gilbert, 703-528-7100 x109; robert@ksaplus.com.



2004 COLLEGES

FLORIDA

Broward Community College
Fort Lauderdale

Hillsborough Community College
Tampa

Tallahassee Community College
Tallahassee

Valencia Community College
Orlando

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute
Albuquerque

New Mexico State University-Dona Ana
Las Cruces

San Juan College
Farmington

Santa Fe Community College
Santa Fe

Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
Albuquerque

University of New Mexico-Gallup
Gallup

NORTH CAROLINA

Durham Technical Community College
Durham

Guilford Technical Community College
Jamestown

Martin Community College
Williamston

Wayne Community College
Goldsboro

TEXAS

Alamo Community College District
San Antonio
(Northwest Vista College, Palo Alto College, San Antonio College, St. Philip's College)

Brookhaven College
Dallas

Coastal Bend College
Beeville

El Paso Community College District
El Paso

Galveston College
Galveston

Houston Community College System
Houston

South Texas College
McAllen

Southwest Texas Junior College
Uvalde

VIRGINIA

Danville Community College
Danville

Mountain Empire Community College
Big Stone Gap

Patrick Henry Community College
Martinsville

Paul D. Camp Community College
Franklin

Tidewater Community College
Norfolk

2005 COLLEGES

CONNECTICUT

Capital Community College
Hartford

Housatonic Community College
Bridgeport

Norwalk Community College
Norwalk

OHIO

Cuyahoga Community College
Cleveland

Jefferson Community College
Steubenville

North Central State College
Mansfield

Sinclair Community College
Dayton

Zane State College
Zanesville

NATIONAL PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

The initiative's national partners bring their diverse strengths and expertise to the common goal of helping community colleges better serve their students.

American Association of Community Colleges
www.aacc.nche.edu

Community College Leadership Program, University of Texas-Austin
www.utexas.edu/academic/cclp

Community College Research Center, Teachers College, Columbia University
www.tc.columbia.edu/ccrc

Jobs for the Future
www.jff.org

KnowledgeWorks Foundation
www.kwfdn.org

Lumina Foundation for Education
www.luminafoundation.org

MDC
www.mdcinc.org

MDRC
www.mdrc.org

Nellie Mae Education Foundation
www.nmefdn.org

Public Agenda
www.publicagenda.org

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