

# Session # 37

## Community College Initiatives

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# American Graduation Initiative

“America cannot lead in the 21<sup>st</sup> century unless we have the best educated, most competitive workforce in the world”

-President Barack Obama on Higher Education

April 24, 2009

# Competitive World Economy

- America's economic strength depends upon the education and skills of its workers
- Jobs requiring at least an associate degree are projected to grow twice as fast as those requiring no college experience
- Over the next decade, nearly eight in ten new jobs will require higher education and workforce training
- Yet, sixty percent of Americans have no postsecondary credentials at all

# The President's Goal

- Produce a higher percentage of college graduates than any other country in the world by 2020
- Move our rate of degree holders from 40% to 60%. This includes both four-year colleges and two-year colleges
- To reach that goal, we need 3 million graduates of 4-year colleges and 5 million from community colleges

# The Challenge

- Today, 27 percent of young people drop out of high school
- Every year, 1.2 million teenagers leave school for the streets
- High-school graduates from the wealthiest families are virtually certain to continue on to higher education; while just over half in the poorest bottom quarter attend



# The Challenge

- About 75 million adults between the ages of 18 to 64 have no postsecondary education and are not enrolled in a course of education. Of those:
  - 15 million older youth and adults (age 18-64) lack a high school diploma or GED;
  - 43 million (age 18-64) are high school graduates with no college education; and
  - 17 million older youth and adults (age 18-64) completed some college but did not receive a degree.
- More than 60% of all students enrolled in community colleges are in need of at least one remedial course

# The Challenge

- Community colleges enroll more than 6 million students and are growing rapidly.
  - Fewer than three in ten full-time students pursuing a two-year degree graduate in three years - and part-time students graduate at even lower rates
  - Less than half of community college students who enroll with the intention of getting a degree or transferring to a four-year school reach this goal in six years



# The Challenge

- Demographics of community college students are changing.
  - More than twice as likely to be enrolled part-time and it is estimated that over 70 percent of two-year college students are employed an average of 30 hours per week
  - Are far less likely to be of traditional college-going age (18 to 24) than four-year college students, and
  - They enroll more than 50% of all African-American students and more than two-thirds of all Latino students. And 39% are the first in their families to attend college

# Efforts to Support the Goal

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
  - Increases in PELL
  - Tuition Tax Credit
  - State Fiscal Stabilization Fund
- Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act
  - TAA – Community College Training Program
  - Transition to DL

# Efforts to Support the Goal

- Skills for America's Future
- White House Summit
- FIPSE Comprehensive Program
- Committee on Student Success

# Contact Information

We appreciate your feedback and comments. We can be reached at:

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