

DEMOCRACY'S COLLEGES

Call To Action

We, the leaders of national organizations that represent and serve America's 1,200 community colleges, recognize and celebrate the colleges' central role in ensuring an educated U.S. citizenry and a globally competitive workforce. We affirm the need for a dramatic increase in the number of Americans with postsecondary degrees and certifications to fulfill critical state and national goals. With the "completion agenda" as a national imperative, community colleges have an obligation to meet the challenge while holding firmly to traditional values of access, opportunity, and quality.

WE BELIEVE

- ▶ We believe the student success and completion agenda is the future of community colleges.
- ▶ We believe that completion matters and that every student counts.
- ▶ We believe in every student's potential and responsibility to succeed, and that an engaged student is more likely to persist in college.
- ▶ We believe the open door must not be a revolving door, and that institutions must take responsibility for student success.
- ▶ We believe that community colleges are gateways to the middle class and beyond for millions of Americans.
- ▶ We believe that community colleges are an invaluable economic engine driving the nation toward renewed and sustained economic prosperity.
- ▶ We believe there are thousands of talented and committed people working "heart and soul" in community colleges who are ready to take on leadership roles.

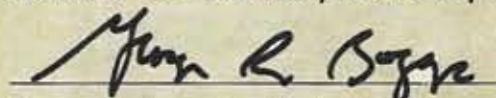
WE COMMIT

- ▶ We commit to a change in institutional culture, from emphasis on access only to emphasis on access and success.
- ▶ We commit to courageous conversations and openness regarding diversity, equity, and evidence reflecting student success and institutional performance.
- ▶ We commit, while increasing success rates for all students, to eliminating the attainment gaps that separate student groups on the basis of race, ethnicity and family income.
- ▶ We commit to acting on facts to make positive changes in the interest of student success and college completion.
- ▶ We commit to promoting faculty and staff development focused on evidence-based educational practice.
- ▶ We commit to providing development opportunities, for college CEOs, trustees and future college leaders, to build leadership for student success.

WE ASK

- ▶ We ask every community college president, trustee, administrator, faculty member, counselor, advisor, financial aid officer, staff member, and stakeholder to examine their current practices, to identify ways to help students understand the added value of degrees and certifications, and to help them progress toward their goals.
- ▶ We ask every student to help one other student succeed.
- ▶ We ask community members to support and work with their local colleges to help more students succeed.
- ▶ We ask elected officials to create the policy conditions that enable, support and reward community colleges in their work to strengthen student success.
- ▶ We ask every community college and community college stakeholder to join us by signing and sharing this commitment and call to action.

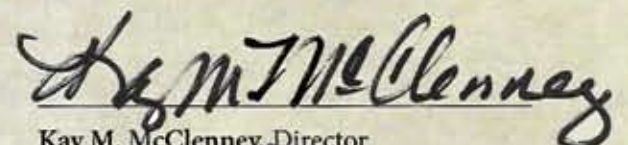
As organizations representing America's community colleges, we mutually commit and pledge to promote the development and implementation of policies, practices, and institutional cultures that will produce 50 percent more students with high quality degrees and certificates by 2020, while increasing access and quality. We call for leaders from every sector and constituency of every college to join us in this work. **Our democracy needs every one of us.**



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American Association of Community Colleges



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PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY