XYZ COMMUNITY COLLEGE JOINS NATIONAL COMPLETION CHALLENGE, WORKS TO RAISE NUMBER OF STUDENTS FINISHING CREDENTIALS AND DEGREES

Staff, faculty & students rally to make campus-wide changes that help students succeed

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YOUR TOWN, STATE – XYZ Community College is taking on a challenge – the battle to raise the number of students finishing degrees and other credentials. It’s part of a national initiative, known as the College Completion Challenge. It’s happening all over the country on community college campuses, as staff, faculty and students come together to help students achieve their dreams.

At XYZ Community College, leaders say they are XYZ – discuss steps being taken to support completion efforts at the college, changes being made, services being improved.

“Insert quote expressing support for completion efforts at the college,” said XYZ Community College president. “Insert quote here about the positive impact raising the completion rate will bring to students, or the community at large, or employers in the community.”

Today’s workers need up-to-date skills to get jobs. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that 30 percent of the nation’s fastest-growing occupations will be filled by people who have a postsecondary education credential.

By 2018, 63% of all jobs will require at least some postsecondary education. Employers will need 22 million new workers with postsecondary credentials. But if current college completion rates remain the same, employers will be short 3 million workers by 2018.

“Helping students complete their college educations – whether that means a degree or a credential – is part of our response to President Obama’s ambitious agenda for America to once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020,” said Dr. Walter G. Bumphus, president and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

In 2010, AACC joined five other national organizations to sign a public 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.

“Without degrees and credentials, the workers of tomorrow will be shut out from hiring. Community colleges can help them complete their educations, attain credentials and degrees that are in demand, and get them on the road to prosperity,” said Bumphus.
“Insert quote here expressing support for the completion initiative from a student with a compelling personal story,” said [First Name] [Last Name], Age. Last Name was in XYZ situation that made it difficult to complete college. (eg. single parent, struggling financially, having a difficult time finishing college). “Insert a follow-up quote expressing the student’s hopes for completing a credential or degree, hopes for employment, the future.”

About XYZ Community College
Insert brief college boilerplate statement here outlining enrollment, location and signature programs for the college. List your college website address.

About the College Completion Challenge
The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) joined with other leading education organizations to launch the College Completion Challenge in 2010 that aims to increase by 50% the number of community college students completing a degree or credential over the next ten years - to 5 million students by the year 2020. More information is available at http://www.aacc.nche.edu/About/completionchallenge/Pages/default.aspx

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