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Dear AACCC Member,

On behalf of the Brookings Institution, the Education Commission of the States, and Jobs for the Future, AACCC would like to invite you to participate in an online dialogue about President Obama’s American Graduation Initiative. President Obama’s proposal is historic – the most important national higher education initiative since the GI Bill. The online dialogue – called a “Jam” – will be used to mobilize a diverse group of individuals who are committed to community college success to influence the national discussion about the Initiative. The **Jam on the American Graduation Initiative will be held September 16, 2009, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. (EST)**, and will be hosted by Knowledge in the Public Interest, with LaGuardia Community College as the lead college.

Five critical components will be examined during the event: Addressing Physical Space Needs, Supporting Programmatic Innovation and Improving College Completion, Empowering States to Fund Community College Success, Improving Online Educational Access, and Building and Using New Data Systems. Discussion of each of these elements will be facilitated by a national community college leader who will provide brief analysis and evocative questions. The moderated Jam will allow you to participate in framing the national conversation on these critical issues.

Following the facilitated discussions, the Jam will focus on how community colleges can help strengthen the language of the legislation and mobilize action to support its passage in the Senate. We will also frame a strategy to respond to the Obama platform through effective state and local actions. We will provide an advocacy tool kit, as well as invite information about your ideas and successes. Collectively, we will develop a blueprint for action.

This online discussion is asynchronous. You may come and go as your time permits, post as often as you like, and move between conversation threads. You may choose to join the conversation when a particular guest moderator will be online or a specific topic reviewed. You are welcome at any point.

Please plan to join us in this important discussion. Simply indicate your interest in a return e-mail by September 9. You will receive Jam site instructions once you have indicated your intention to participate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George R. Boggs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

**George R. Boggs
President & CEO
American Association of Community Colleges**