

Community Colleges and the College Board — Partners for Access, Equity and Success

The College Board and America's community colleges share a mission to support student success in higher education. This partnership includes a variety of initiatives, described below, focusing on advocacy, public policy, research, assessment and professional development. Each project is an important element in the College Board's efforts to advance the inclusive and essential vision of the community college. Go to www.collegeboard.com/communitycollege for more information.

Advocacy and Relationship Development

Community College Advisory Panel (CCAP) — CCAP is a standing committee of education leaders who advise the organization on its work with community colleges, while highlighting the role of these institutions in College Board governance, programs and services.

The National Office of Community College Initiatives — This office serves the educational needs of community college students and educators by supporting the work of the Community College Advisory Panel, advancing the voice of community colleges within the College Board, encouraging other community colleges to become College Board members, and developing programs and services that assist community colleges while promoting equity, access, and college success for all students.

National Commission on Community Colleges — The commission's recent report, *Winning the Skills Race and Strengthening America's Middle Class*, proved prescient, presaging many of the reforms recommended by President Obama and Congress. Calling community colleges "the nation's overlooked asset," the commission's recommendations call for a larger federal role in supporting community colleges, better accountability metrics to assess the community college mission, and an overhaul of transfer policies to address the nation's need for an educated workforce.

Destinations of Choice Initiative — The College Board has called for a reexamination of community colleges in American education and initiated a public conversation about the essential role these institutions will play in the 21st century. The result of this ongoing initiative is a series of publications and working papers that focus on critical community college issues, along with symposia, conference sessions and other outreach designed to spotlight the importance of these institutions.

Public Policy

Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA) Project — In partnership with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), the College Board secured a planning grant from Lumina Foundation to support research and analysis, leading up to an award of \$1 million from the Gates and Lumina foundations to create the VFA.

Community College Student Retention — Building on a national study with four-year institutions, the College Board, with support from the Gates Foundation, will survey community colleges and identify variables that serve to increase the retention and graduation rates of community college students.

Task Force on Financial Aid — The task force is an initiative to identify practices that increase the number of community college students who apply for and receive financial aid. The findings of the task force are described in the recently released report *The Financial Aid Challenge in Community Colleges*.

Academic Preparation and Transfer

Creating First Chances for Second-Chance Students

— This is an ongoing effort to write and disseminate articles and policy papers that focus on strategies to strengthen the transfer process and develop advising resources for community college students who are preparing to transfer to a four-year institution.

Transfer Policy Project — With Gates Foundation support, the College Board is convening national experts to identify ways of improving the transfer process so that many more students complete a bachelor's degree.

Pipeline to Medical Colleges Project — The goal of this project is to increase the number of community college students from underserved groups who go to medical school and agree to practice in urban or rural communities lacking medical services. Community colleges, four-year institutions and medical schools from six states are participating in this effort.

Basic Skills and Assessment

Reimagining Remediation — This is a CCAP-led initiative highlighting the need for effective policies and practices that help academically unprepared students succeed in college.

Placement and Diagnostic Testing — In response to the needs of community college testing professionals, the College Board's **ACCUPLACER**[®] suite of placement examinations has been completely

updated. To its assessments of reading, writing and mathematics, **ACCUPLACER** recently added a series of diagnostic examinations, providing assessment experts and faculty with detailed analyses of student strengths and weaknesses to better calibrate developmental education interventions. In addition, the College-Level Examination Program[®] (**CLEP**[®]) has been shown to be more important than ever in advancing students' progress by assessing their mastery of course content gained through professional experience or independent study.

Professional Development

Community College Counselor Sourcebook: Strategies for Advising Transfer Students from Experienced Community College Counselors (2nd Edition)

— This unique resource provides counselors with strategies, tips and other resources to serve community college students whose goal is to earn a bachelor's degree. The *Sourcebook* relies on advice supplied by experienced community college counselors, and it incorporates research and best practices that effectively serve community college students.

College Board Forum, Regional Forums and Symposia

— Sessions of special interest to community college professionals have increased significantly at all College Board-sponsored gatherings, strengthening partnerships among K–12, community colleges and four-year institutions.