

## **Call to Action Opportunity Summit**

President Obama's "Call to Action" summit is focused on getting more low-income high school students to not only enroll in an institution of higher education, but to graduate as well. The President has already take various steps for make higher education more affordable for low-income students through doubling the Pell Grant amount, creating college tax credits, and reforming student loans so as to implement for direct lending. President Obama is bringing together colleges, universities, non-profit organizations and business leaders from across the country to create more opportunities for students to succeed. The President is announcing over 100 new commitments from these different sectors to expand the opportunity of attending an institution of higher education.

The goals of these commitments include:

- Connecting more low-income students to the college that is a right match for them.
- Increasing the number of students preparing for college through early interventions.
- Leveling the playing field in college advising and SAT/ACT test preparation.
- Strengthening remedial exercises to help underprepared students complete college.

### **Connecting More Low-income Students to the College that is a Right Match for Them:**

A troubling issue facing the country today is that many academically-capable students from low-income families are not enrolling in schools that will most-likely help them succeed. The most common reason for this trend is because of the high costs that are associated with higher education. President Obama is calling on over 80 colleges and universities along with 15 organizations to reverse this trend.

Some of the proposals for this initiative include:

- Doubling of the STEM Posse Partner Institutions
  - Providing \$35 million in full-tuition, four-year scholarships
- College Board joining with member institutions to offer four free waivers to eligible student who take the SAT
- \$95 million in commitments to help more students complete STEM degrees
  - Investments from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust

## **Increasing the Pool of Students Preparing for College Through Early Intervention**

A large reason why many low-income students do not enroll in higher education institutions is because they are underprepared. This includes not taking the SAT/ACT, not visiting colleges as a prospective student, or taking recommended courses that would better prepare an individual for post-secondary education.

Some of the proposals for this initiative include:

- A new \$5 million effort to design pathways to success for careers
  - Deloitte, Darden, Walmart, AT&T, Mutual of America, and the Samberg Family Foundation
  - Support *Scholar Job*, help connect students to viable career
- \$4.5 million in new commitments to redesigned schools
  - Irvine Foundation and Pacific Gas & Electric helping fund more real-world learning as well as business partnerships
- Matching students with mentors and college-preparation material
  - iMentor will help match 20,000 first generation college students with mentors
  - Blue Engine is adding academic preparation programs to 10,000 additional students
- \$12.5 million in new funding to support excellent STEM teaching
  - 100kin10, JP Morgan Chase, the Overdeck Family Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, and the New York State Attorney General

## **Leveling the Playing Field in College Advising and SAT/ACT Test Preparation**

Some of the proposals for this initiative include:

- Assisting 80,000 students through the National College Advising Corps
- Offering additional resources to school counselors
  - The National Association for College Admission Counseling
- A new effort by the Khan Academy to provide college prep support
  - specifically helping students with college math placement tests
- Creating partnerships between colleges and high schools
  - To assist prospective students with financial aid literacy and applications
- Providing students with college prep support
  - College Possible, College Spring, College Track, OneGoal, and Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America will help students by providing counseling services and SAT/ACT preparation

## **Strengthening Remedial Exercises to Help Underprepared Students Complete College**

While many of the initiative proposed in this plan are to make higher education more accessible to low-incomes students, this initiative will strive to make these students more successful once they get there.

Some of these proposals include:

- A new commitment from 23 states to expand the number of students in remedial courses in math and English
  - Supported by Complete College America
- Providing Colleges with resources to improve remedial programs
  - Achieving the Dream, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and Jobs for the Future
- Create work-study jobs that support peer-mentoring
- Build evidence base that supports early intervention through GEAR UP
  - National Council for Community and Education Partnerships will team up with GEAR UP to build a better foundation of evidence
  - \$62 million GEAR UP grant
- Test the best approaches to college advising through Upward Bound
  - Being designed by College Board, ACT, and the Council for Opportunity in Education
- Using FAFSA completion information
  - Dept. of Education proposes a process to share FAFSA data with states and school districts to target students and increase completion
  - This will be done through agreements between the Dept. of Education and state student aid agencies