

## BACKGROUNDER

### ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY Washington, D.C.

The Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) is an independent, nonprofit organization that is dedicated to access and success in postsecondary education around the world. Based in Washington, D.C., IHEP uses unique research and innovative programs to inform key decision makers who shape public policy and support economic and social development.

Founded in 1993, IHEP offers a nonpartisan perspective through a staff that includes some of the most respected professionals in the fields of public policy and research. It is committed to equality of opportunity for all and helps low-income, minority, and other historically underrepresented populations gain access to and achieve success in higher education. This devotion is the major factor for its five areas of focus:

- **Access and Success**—Economic and social benefits, student transfer and retention, degree completion, specialized populations, and technology
- **Accountability**—Institutional quality measures, non-governmental accreditation, ranking systems, and state coordination and governance
- **Diversity**—Student demographics and outcomes, admission policies, minority-serving institutions, cultural competence, and workforce diversity
- **Finance**—Cost measurement and management, international comparative finance, private funding sources, student financial aid, and tuition policies
- **Global Impact**—Access policies, financial aid structures, government funding formulas, and national planning

As one of the world's premier higher education groups concerned with policy development, IHEP manages several initiatives that directly impact students around the world. These unique programs broaden the global scope and reach of IHEP:

- **Alliance for Equity in Higher Education**—Established in 1999 by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) to represent the shared interests of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities. Combined, these minority-serving institutions (MSIs) represented by AIHEC, HACU and NAFEO, educate more than one-third of all students of color in the United States. MSIs disproportionately address the needs of low-income, minority students while contributing significantly to generating a highly skilled workforce, developing civic and community responsibility, and producing citizens who are exceptionally attuned to the increasingly diverse country in which we live.
- **Global Center on Private Financing of Higher Education**—An initiative committed to widening access around the world by identifying global solutions to address the growing concerns about paying for postsecondary education. Founded in 2006, the center serves as a central repository of comprehensive data and trend analysis of private financing strategies and tools—ranging from corporate scholarships and other philanthropic aid to private loans, bond issues, and public and private partnerships. Activities of the center include producing issue briefs and studies, providing trend analysis, and offering expert commentary.

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- **National Articulation and Transfer Network**—The National Articulation and Transfer Network (NATN) is a coalition of community colleges and four-year degree-granting institutions working together to place students on pathways of opportunities that lead to advancement and success in college. With a focus on research, policy, and practice, NATN is known for its web-based research clearinghouse that provides guidance to campus-based practitioners to improve their institutional practices and to introduce them to other institutions engaged in innovative transfer work. NATN also places a strong emphasis on promoting transfer access and success for students of color and has developed strategic relationships with minority-serving institutions to provide access to schools that, by either mission or mandate, provide institutional climates reflecting the cultures of students of color they enroll.
- **Pathways to College**—An alliance of national organizations that advances college opportunity for underserved students by raising public awareness, supporting innovative research, and promoting evidence-based policies and practices across the K-12 and higher education sectors. Pathways promotes the use of research-based policies and practices, the development of new research that is both rigorous and actionable, and the alignment of efforts across middle school, high school, and higher education in order to promote college access and success for underserved students. Resources include an online library of over 2,000 research studies, web sites with unique datasets and resources relevant to college access programs, and original reports that focus on four key issues: academic preparation and support, college access and information, financial aid and affordability, and college success.
- **Summer Academy**—An annual gathering that brings together teams from colleges and universities in a collaborative setting. With the aid of expert consultants, teams create action plans to increase access and success for students of color in higher education. This unique event allows participating campuses an opportunity to identify institution-focused solutions that, if proven successful, may influence national higher education policy. Participants include senior academic administrators, faculty, student affairs representatives, students, and other campus stakeholders. Highlights include strategic conversations and action planning, institutional and cross-institutional teamwork, networking opportunities, tailored workshops and plenary sessions, and national leaders in higher education.

The 2009 IHEP board of directors is chaired by Kathy Isaacson, strategic planning specialist and communications consultant, Strategic Engagement, LLC. Other board members include Cheryl D. Blanco, vice president for special projects, Southern Regional Education Board; Arthur L. "Art" Coleman, managing partner and co-founder, EducationCounsel LLC; Gwendolyn Dungy, executive director, National Association of Student Personnel Administrators; Augustine Gallego, chancellor emeritus, San Diego Community College District; Catherine Milton, consultant; Laura W. Perna, associate professor, higher education management program, University of Pennsylvania; Gregory A. Winfield, president, Winfield Management; and Richard Staufenberger, managing director-Washington and director, Office of Stakeholder Accountability, Save The Children.

Financial support for IHEP is provided by philanthropic organizations, along with considerable funding from state governments, foreign governments, and others who are working to advance access in higher education. Recent funders and partners include the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Ford Foundation, Lumina Foundation for Education, Mozambique Ministry of Higher Education, National Center for Education Statistics, TG, USA Funds, Walmart Foundation, and W.K. Kellogg Foundation**, among others.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT IHEP, PLEASE CONTACT THE ORGANIZATION'S COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING DEPARTMENT AT (202) 372-7204 OR COMMUNICATIONS@IHEP.ORG. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.IHEP.ORG.