

BACKGROUND

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

The Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization committed to promoting access to and success in higher education for all students. Based in Washington, D.C., IHEP develops innovative policy- and practice-oriented research to guide policymakers and education leaders, who develop high-impact policies that will address our nation's most pressing education challenges. The president is Michelle Asha Cooper, Ph.D.

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 students and provides timely research—with the goal of informing public policy decisions—in areas such as access and success, accountability, diversity, finance, underserved student populations (disabled students, foster youth, prisoners), and much more.

IHEP is one of the nation's most respected organizations concerned with policy development and higher education. It is also considered to be a trusted and highly esteemed research organization that:

- **Conducts high quality research** on relevant topic areas in order to inform federal and state policy and institutional programs,
- **Brings attention to innovative ideas** related to access to and success in higher education through core competency in research and policy analysis,
- **Draws insight from both research and programmatic work** in order to inform a wide range of stakeholders, and
- **Creates opportunities for dialogue and information sharing** for stakeholders from various backgrounds.

In addition, IHEP manages several initiatives that directly impact students around the world. The following are a few of IHEP's innovative efforts that help to broaden its scope and reach:

- **National Coalition for College Completion (NCCC)**—Launched in June 2011, NCCC is a group of organizations representing business, civil rights, social services, students, and youth advocacy. The goal of NCCC is to mobilize a diverse, non-partisan voice in support of college completion that speaks for the collective interests of the American public by demanding a policy agenda that encourages higher education institutions to provide better support to underrepresented students; namely, those from low-income, racial/ethnic minority, and first-generation-to-college backgrounds. NCCC's goals will be achieved through the guidance of five driving principles: Affordability, career readiness, equity, transformation, and quality.
- **Pathways to College Network**—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. The Pathways to College Network 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.

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- **Walmart Minority Student Success Initiative**—A three-year program designed to help selected Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs)—Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Predominantly Black Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities—that are already deeply committed to the academic success of first-generation, minority students, build additional capacity to serve this key group of students. Through a competitive award process, 30 MSIs have been awarded a \$100,000 capacity-building grant to implement strategic practices and processes that help first-generation students of color achieve academic success. Participating schools will then share details about their accomplishments in a published (Summer 2012) best practices report.

The **2012 Board of Directors** is chaired by **Arthur L. Coleman**, managing partner and co-founder, EducationCounsel, LLC. Other board members include **Cheryl D. Blanco**, vice president for special projects, Southern Regional Education Board; **Augustine Gallego**, chancellor emeritus, San Diego Community College District; **Neil Horikoshi**, president & executive director, Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund; **Lucie Lapovsky**, Ph.D., principal, Lapovsky Consulting and former president and professor of economics, Mercy College; **Laura W. Perna**, associate professor, higher education management program, University of Pennsylvania; **Michele Siqueiros**, executive director, The Campaign for College Opportunity; **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 and others who are working to advance access in higher education. Recent funding partners include the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Ford Foundation, Kresge Foundation, Lumina Foundation for Education, TG, USA Funds, and Walmart Foundation**, among others.

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THE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY (IHEP) IS A NONPARTISAN, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION COMMITTED TO PROMOTING ACCESS TO AND SUCCESS IN HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS. BASED IN WASHINGTON, D.C., IHEP DEVELOPS INNOVATIVE POLICY- AND PRACTICE-ORIENTED RESEARCH TO GUIDE POLICYMAKERS AND EDUCATION LEADERS, WHO DEVELOP HIGH-IMPACT POLICIES THAT WILL ADDRESS OUR NATION'S MOST PRESSING EDUCATION CHALLENGES.

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