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# **Pathways to Student Success & Completion**

**AACC Future Leaders Institute  
July 25, 2012**

**Terry O'Banion  
obanion@league.org**



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# Three Questions

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- 1. What is the Completion Agenda, and why is it important?**
- 2. How does the Student Success Pathway help us frame the Completion Agenda?**
- 3. What Practices and Principles really work to help students succeed?**



# Question One

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**What is the  
Completion Agenda,  
and why is it  
Important?**



# The Mission of Completion

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**The mission of the Completion Agenda is to double the number of students who by the year 2020 earn a one-year certificate, associate's degree, or transfer to a four-year college or university.**



# Completion Agenda

- **President Obama: 5 million more CC grads by 2020**
- **Lumina: 60% increase by 2025**
- **Gates: double number of grads**
- **CC Org: 50% more by 2020**
- **Virginia: increase by 50%**
- **Anne Arundel: double by 2020**



# Why Important?

- **Once first in the world, America now ranks 10th in the percentage of young adults with a college degree.**
- **The World Economic Forum ranks the U.S.'s educational system 26<sup>th</sup> in the world.**



# Why Important?

- For the first time in our history, the current generation of college-age Americans will be less educated than their parents' generation.
- “If your daddy was rich, you’re gonna stay rich, and if your daddy was poor you’re gonna stay poor.”

*Esquire*, January 2012





# Why Important?

- **14% of CC students do not complete a single credit in first term**
- **Almost 50% drop out by second yr.**
- **60% need remediation**
- **33% recommended for dvlp. studies never enroll in those courses**
- **Only 10% of entering students who want a B. A. ever attain one**



# The Gates Foundation

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“The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has identified the community college as a key player in education and is supporting its role in the national agenda to double the number of low-income young adults who earn a postsecondary credential.... investing \$475 million over four years in its Postsecondary Success strategy.”



# Completion Agenda

- **Create Model Pathways to Success & Completion**
- **Degrees/credentials with marketplace value**
- **Milestones and Momentum**
- **Practices based on evidence**
- **Low-income, under-prepared, first generation students**



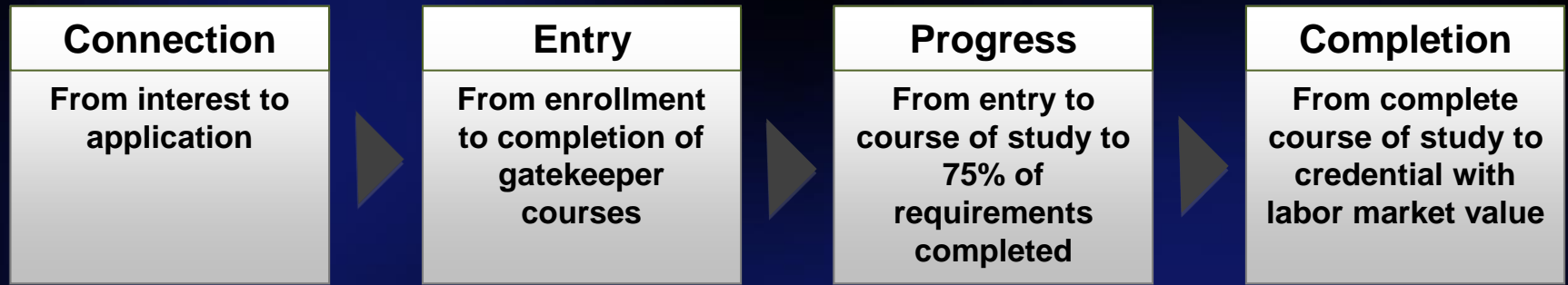
## Question Two

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**How does the  
Student Success  
Pathway help us  
frame the  
Completion Agenda?**



# Student Success Pathway



BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*



# Pathway Components

**Connecting to  
high school &  
adult students**

**Connecting to  
the college**

**Preparing to  
begin classes**

**Providing  
remediation**

**Providing  
classroom  
instruction**

**Monitoring  
first-term  
progress**

**Preparing for  
subsequent  
terms**

**Preparing for  
completion &  
next steps**

**Celebrating  
milestones and  
completion**



# Pathway Components

**Connecting  
to high  
schools**



**Preparing to  
begin classes**



**Providing  
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**Providing  
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## Question Three

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**What Practices and Principles really work to help students succeed?**



# Pathway Components

Connecting to high schools

Preparing to begin classes



*How can it be a real college if it is just across the street from the high school?*

*Lines, lines, and more lines---I wish I were at Disney!*



# Pathway Components

Providing  
remediation

*OMG! What if my friends find out they put me in Remedial English.*



Providing classroom  
instruction

*What!!---do they really think anyone studies 2 hours for every hour in class! LOL*



# Pathway Components

Monitoring first-term progress



Preparing for completion & next steps

*Help---is Where?  
When? How?  
I am sinking fast.*

*What do I do with  
94 credits and no  
degree?*



# WEBSITES

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**Community College Research  
Center: [ccrc.tc.columbia.edu](http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu)**

**The SOURCE on Community  
Colleges: [edpath.com](http://edpath.com)**

**Center for Community College  
Student Engagement: [cccse.org](http://cccse.org)**



# **“Best Practices”**

**Adopting discrete “best practices” and trying to bring them to scale will not work to improve student completion on a substantial scale.**

**Davis Jenkins**

**April 2011—CCRC**



# Pathway Components

**Connecting  
to high  
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**Preparing to  
begin classes**



**Providing  
remediation**



**Providing  
classroom  
instruction**



**Monitoring  
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# Principles of Practice

- **7 Principles of Good Practice in Undergraduate Education—Gamson & Chickering**
- **Design Principles for Effective Practice: 2012 CCCSE report “A Matter of Degrees.”**
- **Research-based Principles of Effective Practice—Davis Jenkins of the Community College Research Center.**
- **6 Principles of the Learning College**



# Core Principles of Student Success

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- 1. Every student will make a significant connection with another person at the college as soon as possible.**



# Core Principles of Student Success

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**2. Key intake programs including orientation, assessment, advisement, and placement will be integrated and mandatory.**



# Core Principles of Student Success

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**3. Every student will be placed in a “Program of Study” from day one; undecided students will be placed in a mandatory “Program of Study” designed to help them decide.**



# Core Principles of Student Success

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**4. Every student will be carefully monitored throughout the first term to ensure successful progress; the college will make interventions immediately to keep students on track.**



# Core Principles of Student Success

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**5. All decisions regarding policies, programs, practices, processes, and personnel will be based on evidence to the extent it is possible to do so.**



# Core Principles of Student Success

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**6. Professional Development for all college stakeholders will focus on student success and completion as the highest priority.**



# Pathway Components

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# The Pathway Model Because:

- 1. The Student Success Pathway provides a visible and integrated roadmap for the core business of the community college and should be used as the institutional framework for creating strategic and long-range plans.**
- 2. The Student Success Pathway also provides a visible and integrated roadmap for students and should be used as the framework for their individual educational plans.**



# TRANSFORMATION

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**The Completion Agenda is about transforming the community college into a powerful force for student success that will lead to substantial benefits for students, for communities, and for the nation.**



# The Completion Agenda

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**Failure  
is not an  
option.**



# Terry O'Banion

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*Ancora Imparo*  
“Still I Am Learning.”

Michelangelo



# Workshop

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**What are the 3 most important practices, programs, or actions community colleges should commit to in order to implement the selected principles?**

