



Community to College Fund

Community colleges are the first place many Americans turn in order to gain skills necessary to compete for employment. These institutions train workers for high-skill jobs that are currently available, but for which many applicants are not qualified. As the economy continues to evolve, so will the jobs. Workers will have to retrofit their current skills, acquire and apply interdisciplinary knowledge and skills, or be able to engage in non-routine tasks.

- By 2018, more than 46 million jobs will need to be filled in the U.S. with approximately 63% of them requiring at least some postsecondary education.ⁱ
- Currently, America's community colleges are severely underfunded. The annual **\$2 billion** in direct federal support for community colleges pales in comparison to the **\$20 billion** allocated to public four-year universities and **\$60 billion** spent on K-12 education.ⁱⁱ This funding disparity is glaring considering community college students make up 44 percent of all undergraduates.ⁱⁱⁱ
- The Community College to Career Fund will help partnerships between two-year colleges and businesses train two million Americans for jobs in high-demand industries, such as health care, advanced manufacturing, clean energy, and information technology.^{iv}
- The Fund will focus on valuable job training-related efforts, such as registered apprenticeships, on-the-job training opportunities, and paid internships for low-income students that allow them to simultaneously earn credit for work-based learning in a high-skill field.^v
- States will be able to seek money to support employer efforts to improve the skills of their workforce.^{vi}
- "Pay for Performance" strategies will provide incentives for training providers, community colleges, and local workforce organizations to ensure trainees find permanent jobs.^{vii} It would also provide stronger incentives to effectively place individuals with greater barriers for employment.
- The Fund will encourage businesses to locate and invest in the U.S. because of training available to quickly skill up the workforce.^{viii}

- The Fund will support pathways to entrepreneurship for 5 million small business owners over three years, including a six-week online training course on entrepreneurship that could reach up to 500,000 new entrepreneurs and an intensive six-month entrepreneurship training program resulting in entrepreneurship certification for 100,000 small business owners.^{ix}
- Investments in community colleges will yield substantial returns to both students and society. Post-secondary education contributes to decreased government expenditures on unemployment benefits and incarceration.^x With higher education come greater earnings, which in turn translate into more tax revenues and lower unemployment.^{xi}
- The taxpayer benefit over a lifetime for having a student complete postsecondary education compared to high school ranges from \$24,000 to \$51,000, depending on race and gender.^{xii}
- Investments in community colleges produce local benefits. Researchers have found that as many as 87% of community college graduates stay in the region 30 years after graduation.^{xiii}
- One study found that the return on investment to state and local government from providing funds to community colleges averaged 16.1% nationally in 2007.^{xiv}

ⁱ "Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements Through 2018." Center on Education and the Workforce. Georgetown University. June 2010. <http://www9.georgetown.edu/grad/gppi/hpi/cew/pdfs/State-LevelAnalysis-web.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Sara Goldrick-Rab, Douglas N. Harris, Christopher Mazzeo, and Gregory Kienzl, "Transforming America's Community Colleges: A Federal Policy Proposal to Expand Opportunity and Promote Economic Prosperity," Brookings Policy Brief, May 2009, 3.

ⁱⁱⁱ National Center for Education Statistics, 2010.

^{iv} "Fact Sheet: A Blueprint to Train Two Million Workers for High-Demand Industries through a Community College to Career Fund." The White House. Feb. 2012. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/02/13/fact-sheet-blueprint-train-two-million-workers-high-demand-industries-th>

^v "Focused on training for available high-skill jobs." Community College Times. Feb. 13, 2012.

<http://www.communitycollegetimes.com/Pages/Government/Focused-on-training-for-available-high-skill-jobs.aspx>

^{vi} White House fact sheet.

^{vii} *Id.*

^{viii} *Id.*

^{ix} *Id.*

^x Christopher M. *A Sound Investment: The Community College Dividend*. American Association of Colleges. March 2011.

http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Publications/Briefs/Documents/2011-01PBL_Investment.pdf

^{xi} *Id.*

^{xii} *Id.* at 4.

^{xiii} *Id.* at 7.

^{xiv} *Id.*