



**Student Success:**  
**Transitioning to Completion**  
*(Richards Hall, Room 102)*

**Facilitators:**

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## Institutional Topic Focus Group Meetings

These facilitated roundtable sessions are intended to be interactive conversations that will enhance existing knowledge of the important policy and practice areas of our universities but also to causing participants to create lists of “need more information” items to investigate further.



For the past few decades the focus of higher education policy has been on student access which meant that after admission the responsibility and attention upon student success dissipated.

The national conversation is now focused on completions – while still ensuring access.

So this discussion will center around how PASSHE will not be successful without **collaborate efforts, extensive use of data, and laser focused attention on and completion.**

## POSTER 1:

Why should we have thoughtful and action-oriented discussions about exploring options to increase graduation rates?

Access without success is an empty promise...and a missed opportunity with economic consequences.

## POSTER 2:

Americans can take pride in the great progress made in ensuring access to college: More than 70% of our young people start some kind of advanced training or education within two years of receiving their high school diplomas.

(Source: [http://www.completecollege.org/completion\\_shortfall/](http://www.completecollege.org/completion_shortfall/))

## POSTER 3:

Yet for too many, the journey ends long before graduation day. They become college dropouts.

Just over half of students who start 4-year bachelor's degree programs full-time finish – in six years.

Fewer than three out of ten students who start at community colleges full-time graduate with an associate degree in three years.

[Source: <http://www.higheredinfo.org/dbrowser/?level=nation&mode=map&state=0&submeasure=27>]

[Source: <http://www.higheredinfo.org/dbrowser/index.php?measure=19>]

## POSTER 4:

In the current recession, unemployment rates are twice as high for those with just a high school diploma (10.8%) compared to those with a bachelor's degree or higher (4.9%).

## POSTER 5:

In just 10 years, six of 10 new jobs will require a college education, but currently, only half of all students who enter college graduate.

## POSTER 6:

60% of white students who attend four-year colleges full-time complete a bachelor's degree within six years, compared to 49% of Hispanic students and 42% of African-American students.

## POSTER 7:

As a result, America is slipping: behind our global competitors – and, even more alarming, *between generations*.

Once first in the world, America now ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the percentage of young adults with a college degree.

For the first time in our history, the current generation of college-age Americans will be less educated than their parents' generation – unless things change quickly.

[Source: <http://www.higheredinfo.org/dbrowser/?level=nation&mode=map&state=0&submeasure=27>]

[Source: <http://www.higheredinfo.org/dbrowser/?level=nation&mode=data&state=0&submeasure=240>]

## POSTER 8:

The consequences of falling short of college completion are not only significant for once promising students, but are severe for states and our country.

1. In the current recession, unemployment rates are twice as high for those with just a high school diploma (10.8%) compared to those with a bachelor's degree or higher (4.9%).
2. Increases in the proportion of a region's population with a bachelor's degree result in wage increases for *all* workers in the region, regardless of education level.

[Source: <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t04.htm>]

[Source: [http://www.collegeboard.com/prod\\_downloads/about/news\\_info/trends/ed\\_pays\\_2007.pdf](http://www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/about/news_info/trends/ed_pays_2007.pdf)]

## POSTER 9:

A postsecondary credential—whether it’s a bachelor’s degree, associate degree, apprenticeship, or certificate—is critical for success in today’s economy.

By 2018, more than six in 10 jobs will require some sort of postsecondary education. Simply put, for millions of Americans, a postsecondary credential is a ticket to out of poverty and into the middle class.

## POSTER 10:

Why is America falling short?

To name only a few of the many reasons: inadequate academic preparation, poorly designed and delivered remediation, broken credit transfer policies, confusing financial aid programs, a culture that rewards enrollment instead of completion, and a system too often out of touch with the needs of the today's college student.

[Source: <http://www.publicagenda.org/files/pdf/theirwholelifesaheadofthem.pdf> ]

# POSTER 11:

The age-old American ideal of college – going full-time and living on campus with help from Mom and Dad– represents only a quarter of today’s students. Who are the other 75 percent? They are moms juggling parenting, work and college; they are husbands attending classes at night and on weekends; they are our military personnel who are earning college degrees while serving their nation around the globe; they are the electrician who knows that, without a college degree, he’s the “lowest on the totem pole” when applying for jobs. **KNOW WHO IS ATTENDING YOUR CAMPUS!**

# POSTER 12:

- By sharing responsibility for success, we can turn broken dreams and missed opportunities into college graduates and economic success.
- Students must work hard, make good choices, and stick with it.
- Colleges and universities must make graduation, not head counts, their measure of success. And they must align to the needs of today's students.
- States must knock down obstacles, across entire educational systems, that unnecessarily block paths to college completion – and they must encourage and hold accountable institutions and students for measurable progress.

## **POSTER 13:**

### **Improving Graduation Rates - GENERATING IDEAS**

**Question 1** - What are some ways in which our PASSHE institutions may work to reduce time and accelerate success to graduation? A variety of policies and practices can help accelerate students' progress in college, prevent unnecessary delays, and increase degree completions.

**Question 2** – What programs and support services should be could assist in improving completion rates?

**Question 3** – How can we improve our tracking of performance to degree completion? What milestones and on-track indicators are important to this process?

**Question 4** – What types of innovative financing solutions may prove to increase postsecondary attainment?

## **POSTER 13:**

### **Improving Graduation Rates – GENERATING IDEAS GROUP NOTES**

Question 1 - What are some ways in which our PASSHE institutions may work to reduce time and accelerate success? A variety of policies and practices can help accelerate students' progress in college, prevent unnecessary delays, and increase degree completions.



**POSTER 13:**

**Improving Graduation Rates - GENERATING IDEAS**

Question 2 – What programs and support services may be considered for improving completion rates?



**POSTER 13:**

**Improving Graduation Rates - GENERATING IDEAS**

Question 3 – What can we improve our tracking of performance to degree completion? What milestones and on-track indicators are important to this process?



**POSTER 13:**

**Improving Graduation Rates - GENERATING IDEAS**

Question 4 – What types of innovative financing solutions may prove to increase postsecondary attainment?



Additional Notes:



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## TAKE AWAY RESOURCES ON IMPROVING COMPLETION RATES

- » [View the Lumina Foundation FULL REPORT](#)
- » [College Navigator: Find the right college for you](#)
- » [Higher Education Opportunity Act Information on College Costs](#)
- » [Aligning Community Colleges to their Local Labor Market](#)
- » [Time is the Enemy](#)
- » [Projections of Education Statistics to 2020](#)
- » [Why Business Must Champion Higher Education Reforms for a Secure Economic Future](#)
- » [The College Payoff: Education, Occupations, Lifetime Earnings. \(pdf\)](#)
- » [How Do Education and Occupation Affect Lifetime Earnings?](#)
- » [Most Americans See College as Essential to Getting a Good Job](#)
- » [The High Cost of Low Graduation Rates: How Much Does Dropping Out of College Really Cost?](#)
- » [Farther, Faster: Six Promising Programs Show How Career Pathway Bridges Help Basic Skills Students Earn Credentials That Matter](#)
- » [Chattanooga State Piloting National Effort to Improve Math Learning](#)
- » [Haslam Underlines Education Goals at Business Gathering](#)
- » [What Students Can Do to Complete College](#)
- » [College Grants Spared From Spending Cuts](#)
- » [The Undereducated American \(pdf\)](#)
- » [2008-09 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study \(pdf\)](#)
- » [Paths to the Bachelor's Degree](#)
- » [One Nation, and a College Degree for All](#)
- » [University Center Addresses National Challenge of Degree Attainment](#)
- » [Higher Education and Economic Recovery](#)
- » [Affordability and Transfer: Critical to Increasing Baccalaureate Degree Completion \(pdf\)](#)
- » [To Raise College-Completion Rates, Deal With Costs and Transfer Policies, Report Suggests](#)
- » [U.S. Will Need Another 20 Million Workers With Some College Education, Report Says](#)
- » [Grade-Level Reading, Postsecondary Success on Agenda for Mayors' Education Advisors](#)
- » [Unfulfilled Expectations: Recent college graduates struggle in a troubled economy \(pdf\)](#)
- » [Community Colleges and Regional Recovery: Strategies for State Action \(pdf\)](#)
- » [K-12 Education Reform: Implications and Opportunities for Public Colleges and Universities \(pdf\)](#)
- » [Skilled workers drive the economic engines of states, regions and local communities.](#)
- » [Freedom to Fail? \(pdf\)](#)
- » [What should students be expected to know and do once they earn their degrees?](#)
- » [Unlocking the Door to College.](#)
- » [Higher education attainment will secure America's social, civic and economic future.](#)
- » [Governor Bredesen pushing to make it easier for students to transfer college credits.](#)
- » [Bringing down the cost.](#)