



# Report From Washington: Biden/Harris HE Priorities

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U.S. Department of Education

# Community Colleges are Vital to *Investing in America*

- ❑ From semiconductors, to autonomous vehicles, to renewables and sustainable energy, to manufacturing . . .
  - ❑ CCs will play pivotal roles in the Administration's *Investing in America*
- ❑ Today's current and future workforce will be shaped by CCs and will transform the economy
- ❑ The Administration is committed to supporting CCs as affordable, accessible, inclusive, and unleashing their economic engines to move the nation forward



# Community Colleges are Vital to *Investing in America*

- ❑ \$470 billion in private investments along with \$220 billion from the Administration
- ❑ Five Workforce Hubs – Phoenix, Columbus, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Augusta GA
  - ❑ Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Sprint – pathways to good jobs
  - ❑ Good Jobs, Great Cities Academy – DOL 16 cities incl. San Antonio



# Impact is Large and Pervasive

- Over 10.2 million students enrolled in community colleges (6.1 credit and 4.1 noncredit in 2019-2020) representing 35% of all undergrads nationwide (NCES/IPEDS IPEDS Fall 2021 Enrollment Survey)
  - Some estimated 500,000 here in Texas
    - About 66% attend part-time; 34% full-time (IPEDS Fall 2021 Enrollment Survey).
- Community college students are diverse: 25% Hispanic, 12% African American, 7% Asian American or Pacific Islander, and 1% American Indian or Alaska Native (IPEDS Fall 2021 Enrollment Survey).
- Every year, community colleges help Americans earn over 877,240 associate degrees, nearly 600,000 career and technical certificates, and 25,000 bachelor's degrees (IPEDS Completion Survey 2021).



# Administration's HE Priorities

- ❑ Affordability
- ❑ Inclusivity
- ❑ Outcomes-focused
- ❑ Diversity



# A Strong Commitment to Affordability

- ❑ Largest Increases to Pell by any Administration
  - ❑ \$6,495 to \$6,895 last year
  - ❑ And to \$7,395 this year
- ❑ Recommitted to Free CC Tuition



# Focus on Inclusivity vs. Exclusivity

- ❑ Raising the Bar Convenings
- ❑ Next Generation of the College Scorecard
- ❑ Creating meaningful pathways to careers
  - ❑ Corrections Education





# Outcomes-Focused

- ❑ Degree and Certificate Completion
  - ❑ Transfer and Articulation
  - ❑ Credentials of value
- ❑ Workforce and Career Connected





# Assuring Diversity

- ❑ Support colleges and universities to continue building pathways to upward mobility and success for all students
- ❑ Providing colleges and universities with clarity on what admissions practices and additional programs to support students remain lawful
  - ❑ Convening a National Summit on Educational Opportunity later this month
- ❑ Releasing a report on strategies for increasing diversity and opportunity, including meaningful consideration of adversity
  - ❑ Increasing transparency in college admissions and enrollment practices
- ❑ Supporting states in analyzing data to increase access to educational opportunity for underserved communities.



# Unlocking Career Success

- Unlocking Career Success is an interagency initiative that reimagines how our nation's high schools prepare all students to thrive in their future careers. This joint effort across the U.S. Departments of Education, Labor, and Commerce will support public and private sector leaders, government agencies, and other community-based organizations to help students earn postsecondary degrees and industry credentials that our employers need, and our economy demands.



# Unlocking Career Success: The Keys

System-wide strategies and opportunity multipliers that all stakeholders must collaborate around and invest in to expand pathways to student success:

- ❑ Dual Enrollment
- ❑ Work-based Learning
- ❑ Workforce Credentials
- ❑ Career Advising and Navigation



# Unlocking Career Success Summits

- ❑ July 25: Summit will be held in Renton, WA at Renton Technical College. Partner Agency: Department of Transportation
- ❑ August 10: Summit will be held in Aurora, CO at Community College of Aurora. Partner Agency: Department of Energy
- ❑ August 17: Summit will be held in Madison, WI at Madison Area Technical College. Partner Agency: Department of Commerce
  - ❑ September 12: Summit will be held in Biloxi, MS at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Partner Agency: Department of Labor



# New Career-Connected HS Grants

Coming late this summer:

- An initial investment of \$25 million in competitive grants to partnerships between local educational agencies, institutions of higher education – including community colleges – and employers, to support early enrollment in postsecondary and career-connected coursework; work-based learning opportunities; and academic and career-connected instruction across the last two years of high school and the first two years of postsecondary education.



# And a Word About Texas

The passage of HB 8, and the allocation of \$683 million in the state budget, positions Texas as a national leader in tying funding for community colleges to measurable student-focused outcomes.

- ❑ The number of credentials of value awarded, including badges, certificates, and degrees, that position graduates for well-paying jobs.
- ❑ Credentials of value awarded in high-demand fields where employers are looking for skilled employees.
  - ❑ Successful student transfers from community colleges to four-year universities.
- ❑ Completion of a sequence of dual credit courses, which are offered to high school students and can set them on early pathways to success.

Source: Texas HE Coordinating Board Press Release June 9, 2023



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# Final Word

- ❑ HB6 aligns with the core priorities as the Biden/Harris Administration
- ❑ We look forward to working with all our Texas community colleges and boards to deliver on our collective promises
- ❑ My colleagues and I in OCTAE and throughout the Administration are here to bring the whole of government approach to you in Texas and across the nation
- ❑ Thank you for what are doing and will continue to do for the hundreds of thousands of students





# THANK YOU!

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