Educational Equity and the Completion Agenda

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Percent of Students of Color in Higher Education


NATIONAL AVERAGE = 36.2%
Percent of Adults 25 to 64 with an Associates Degree or Higher

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey One-Year Public Use Microdata Sample

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 39.5%
Aligning Public Policy with our Ambition for College Completion:

• Rethink our finance system—appropriations to institutions, tuition, student aid and institutional productivity—as a package, not a series of independent policies as we do now;
• Align this system with state and/or national goals for completion;
• Get these policies to be mutually reinforcing instead of working in opposition to one another, as is the case now; and
• Commit to reach our goals in ways that keep higher education affordable for students and taxpayers.
We can be more intentional about completion on campus:

• Align Instructional Practices with Student Needs
  – Course availability
  – Timing of registration

• Align Advising and Support with Key Decision Points
  – When borrowing money
  – When selecting a major

• Align Faculty and Staff Roles with Factors that Contribute to Student Success
  – New pedagogies
  – New learning environments/processes
Founded in 1867 as the George Peabody Education Fund, the Southern Education Foundation’s mission is to advance equity and excellence in education for all students in the South, particularly low income students and students of color. SEF uses collaboration, advocacy, and research to improve outcomes from early childhood to adulthood.

Our core belief is that education is the vehicle by which all students get fair chances to develop their talents and contribute to the common good.

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