



K-20 Education Pipeline Organizational Scan

Prepared for the Blackboard Institute

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The Third Mile Group has compiled this document to assist the Blackboard Institute in the development of its new Pipeline Matters project. The following list of organizations will contribute to the Institute's thorough examination of the education pipeline, and will complement the research and organizational bibliography (see, K-20 Education Pipeline Bibliography), list of resources and potential partners, and help produce a Wiki tool for organizations, states and the general public. The entries presented in this document will help Blackboard stakeholders see the range of organizations working on these issues and develop partnerships to create a common understanding and action around issues students face in navigating the public education system. The list is not exhaustive, but rather is intended to be a starting point in the discussion to determine the areas and junctures of the education pipeline that need attention. Please submit any additional entries to: Garen Singer at Garen.Singer@blackboard.com.

Key Organizations Engaged In Education Pipeline Issues

Listed in alphabetical order, the description for each organization is from organization's website, or from the ECS website, education organizations page, http://www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=/html/links/ECSWeb_links.asp?section=3.

Achieve, Inc. An independent, bipartisan organization that serves as a national clearinghouse on standards, assessment, accountability and educational technology. Its searchable database brings together standards from 40 states and from other countries and organizes them in a way that allows for side-by-side comparison. www.achieve.org

ACT: College Readiness Standards. The College Readiness Standards are sets of statements intended to help explain the meaning of the scores earned in ACT's three curriculum-based assessment programs. They represent learning goals that are necessary for success in high school, college and the world of work, and have been developed for all four academic areas measured by ACT: English, mathematics, reading, and science. <http://www.act.org/>

American Council on Education. Since 1918, ACE has provided leadership and a unified voice on key higher education issues. Through advocacy, research and innovative programs, ACE represents the interests of more than 1,800 campus executives, as well as the leaders of higher education - related associations and organizations. Together, ACE member institutions serve 80% of today's college students. ACE speaks as higher education's voice in matters of public policy in Washington, DC, and throughout the nation, and provides vital programs, information and a forum for dialogue on key issues. www.acenet.edu

American Diploma Project. Four organizations – Achieve, The Education Trust, the National Alliance of Business and the Fordham Foundation – have joined forces to strengthen ongoing standards-based reform efforts at the state level. The American Diploma Project aims to develop and solidify demand for standards-based high school assessment data in admissions and hiring processes; assist states in revising and/or strengthening their current standards-based systems; and develop national high school graduation benchmarks in English language arts and mathematics that all states may use to calibrate the quality and rigor of their standards and assessments. This site provides more information about the project goals, activities and partners. www.achieve.org.

America’s Promise Alliance. With more than 300 national partner organizations and their local affiliates, the Alliance is uniquely positioned to mobilize Americans to act. Through hands-on, multi-sector collaboration, we are changing the way organizations do business, and magnifying their power to make a sustainable difference for young people. We have made a top priority of ensuring that all young people graduate from high school ready for college, work and life through an on-going Dropout Prevention initiative. Our work involves raising awareness, encouraging action and engaging in advocacy to provide children the key supports we call the Five Promises: 1) Caring adults such as parents, teachers, mentors, coaches and neighbors 2) Safe places that offer constructive activities when young people are not in school 3) A healthy start and healthy development 4) An effective education that prepares young people for college and work 5) Opportunities to help others through service. <http://www.americaspromise.org/>

The Bridge Project. The Bridge Project: Strengthening K-16 Transition Policies builds on the view that reforms affecting K-12 and higher education must occur across systems in order to achieve the desired outcomes. Reforms developed in isolation from each other can lead to mismatched policy objectives and send confusing messages to education stakeholders. The overarching purpose of the project is to improve opportunities for all students to enter and succeed in higher education by strengthening the alignment between higher education admissions-related requirements and K-12 curriculum frameworks, standards, and assessments. Our research will help educational institutions and federal, state, and local agencies accomplish this goal by providing a descriptive analysis of the policies as well as disjunctures that exist in the current policy environment, and a detailed analysis of ways to improve the current system. Toward this end, Bridge Project staff will formulate both short- and long-term policy and practice recommendations. <http://www.stanford.edu/group/bridgeproject/#about>

Business-Higher Education Forum. The Business-Higher Education Forum is an independent, non-profit membership organization of leaders from American businesses, colleges and universities, and foundations. The Forum’s mission is to engage and inform members, policy makers and the public regarding strategic national challenges of high priority to both business and higher education, and to help shape sound policy to address these challenges. The Forum achieves its mission through collaboration of corporate and academic leaders, high quality policy research, effective communication, and advocacy with federal, state, institutional and corporate policy makers. <http://www.bhef.com/index2.asp>

Council of Chief State School Officers. The Council of Chief State School Officers is leading an Initiative with the National Governors Association to create a set of core common standards across the country. An excerpt from the recent press release on this: The National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School

Officers (CCSSO) today released the names of the states and territories [over 40] that have joined the Common Core State Standards Initiative. In the 26 years since the release of *A Nation at Risk*, states have made great strides in increasing the academic rigor of education standards. Yet, America's children still remain behind other nations in terms of academic achievement and preparedness to succeed. By signing on to the Common Core State Standards Initiative, governors and state commissioners of education across the country are committing to joining a state-led process to develop a common core of state standards in English-language arts and mathematics for grades K-12. These standards will be research and evidence-based, internationally benchmarked, aligned with college and work expectations and include rigorous content and skills. For more information go to: www.ccsso.org

The Data Quality Campaign. The Data Quality Campaign (DCQ) is a national, collaborative effort to encourage and support state policymakers to: (1) improve the collection, availability, and use of high-quality education data; and (2) implement state longitudinal data systems to improve student achievement. <http://www.dataqualitycampaign.org/>

Education Commission of the States. The Education Commission of the States (ECS) is an interstate compact created in 1965 to improve public education by facilitating the exchange of information, ideas and experiences among state policymakers and education leaders. As a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization involving key leaders from all levels of the education system, ECS creates unique opportunities to build partnerships, share information and promote the development of policy based on available research and strategies. Forty-nine states, three territories and the District of Columbia constitute the commission's current membership. Each member state or territory is represented by seven commissioners -- the governor and six other individuals, typically legislators, chief state school officers, state and local school board members, superintendents, higher education officials and business leaders. The ECS website has a wealth of information on these topics, including links to many of the reports and organizations listed in this bibliography. www.ecs.org

The Education Trust. The Education Trust is a nonprofit organization that works for the high academic achievement of all students at all levels – kindergarten through college. In addition to access, the work of the Trust encompasses K-16, standards, teacher quality, state and federal policies and community engagement. This site has multiple publications and reports on P-16 reform, as well as an extensive list of Web links, including local and state P-16 initiatives. <http://www2.edtrust.org/edtrust/default>

E-Luminate. E-Luminate Group is an education consulting firm specializing in marketing communications and 21st century skills services. From K-12 to higher education to workforce development and beyond, we are the go-to experts. And our Washington D.C. roots uniquely qualify us to help you understand the rapid change occurring in the nation's capital. www.e-luminategroup.com

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) - Enacted in 1998, GEAR UP is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and funds partnerships of high-poverty middle schools, colleges and universities, community organizations and businesses to work with entire grade levels of students. The partnerships provide tutoring, mentoring, information on college preparation and financial aid, an emphasis on core academic preparation and, in some cases, scholarships.

Human Services Policy Center (HSPC) – In concert with the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington, HSPC pursues research and ideas that work to strengthen sound public policy and management. HSPC's interdisciplinary teams conduct applied policy analysis and research that informs policy at local, state, and national levels. HSPC is dedicated to improving the lives of children, families, and communities, with a special emphasis on addressing the needs of those who are disadvantaged. <http://hspc.org/topics/p-20/>

International Association for K-12 Online Learning. iNACOL, The International Association for K-12 Online Learning, is a non-profit organization that facilitates collaboration, advocacy, and research to enhance quality K-12 online teaching and learning. iNACOL strives to ensure all students have access to a world-class education and quality online learning opportunities that prepare them for a lifetime of success. <http://www.inacol.org/>

Jobs for the Future. Jobs for the Future is an organization that attempts to increase economic advancement for low-income youth and adults by increasing educational opportunity and attainment. Of particular interest is the “Double the Numbers” project which seeks to boost the number of low-income citizens completing education and training beyond high school. This section of the Web site features new research and a public opinion survey on the benefits of postsecondary education. www.jff.org

Keeping Pace With Online Learning. *Keeping Pace 2008* sponsor organizations provide critical expertise and guidance in the development and publication of this website and report. *Keeping Pace* is very much a collaborative effort that builds on the leadership and experience of the following organizations in 2008: Connections Academy, Florida Virtual School, Illinois Virtual High School, Michigan Virtual School, iNACOL (International Association for K-12 Online Learning), Pearson, Texas Education Agency, Virtual High School Global Consortium and the Wyoming Department of Education. *Keeping Pace with K-12 Online Learning: A Review of State-Level Policy and Practice, 2008* is the latest in a series of annual reports that began in 2004 that examine the status of K-12 online education across the country, providing a research-based overview of the latest policies, practices and trends affecting online learning programs across all 50 states. <http://www.kpk12.com/>

National Association of System Heads (NASH). NASH seeks to improve the organization and governance systems in higher education. Toward this end, NASH has partnered with the Education Trust to foster coordinated state P-16 policies.

The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education promotes public policies that enhance Americans' opportunities to pursue and achieve high-quality education and training beyond high school. As an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, the National Center prepares action-oriented analyses of pressing policy issues facing the states and the nation regarding opportunity and achievement in higher education-including two- and four-year, public and private, for-profit and nonprofit institutions. The National Center communicates performance results and key findings to the public, to civic, business and higher education leaders, and to state and federal leaders who are poised to improve higher education policy. Established in 1998, the National Center is not affiliated with any institution of higher education, with any political party, or with any government agency. <http://www.highereducation.org/index.shtml>

National College Access Network. Incorporated in 1995, the National College Access Network (NCAN), an organization classified as 501(c)(3) under the Internal Revenue Service Code, grew out of the informal networking of people who were involved in the burgeoning field of college access. There are several varieties of college access programs but all spend their resources, both financial and human, to help motivated, academically capable, low-income young people enroll in and graduate from college. All operate independently and act as strong and sometimes the sole advocates for the students they serve. NCAN's current roster of members includes 253 organizations and 23 individuals, which are serving thousands of low-income students and their families in 45 states, the District of Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec. Geographically, they range from Massachusetts to California, reaching out to young people in inner cities and rural communities. Many members provide last dollar or gap scholarships to students who have been accepted into college but whose financial aid packages fall short of enabling the students to actually attend. <http://www.collegeaccess.org/>

National High School Center. The National High School Center is a central source of information and expertise on high school improvement issues for the Regional Comprehensive Centers. Our work includes identifying effective programs and tools, offering user-friendly products, and providing high-quality technical assistance to support the use of research-based approaches within high schools. <http://www.betterhighschools.org/>

The National Information Center for Higher Education Policymaking and Analysis. This Web site provides a wealth of information on state higher education systems. Data are available on such topics as postsecondary enrollment, financial aid and student retention, persistence and graduation. Users can retrieve data from the site to generate their own custom U.S. and state color-coded maps. <http://www.nashonline.org/>

National Institute for Staff & Organizational Development (NISOD). Since 1978, the National Institute for Staff & Organizational Development (NISOD) has been dedicated to the professional development of faculty, administrators, and staff; and to the continued improvement of teaching and learning, with the ultimate goal of student success. More than 700 community colleges around the world are NISOD-members, including almost every large community college district, the majority of urban and technical colleges in the United States and Canada, and more than 200 small, rural colleges around the world. <http://www.nisod.org/>

Partnership for 21st Century Skills. The Partnership for 21st Century Skills has emerged as the leading advocacy organization focused on infusing 21st century skills into education. The organization brings together the business community, education leaders, and policymakers to define a powerful vision for 21st century education to ensure every child's success as citizens and workers in the 21st century. The Partnership encourages schools, districts and states to advocate for the infusion of 21st century skills into education and provides tools and resources to help facilitate and drive change. <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/>

Pathways to College Network. Launched in 2001, the Pathways to College Network is an alliance of national organizations committed to advancing college access and success for underserved students, including those who are the first generation in their families to go to college, low-income students, underrepresented minorities, and students with disabilities. Pathways emphasizes connecting policymakers, education leaders and practitioners, and community leaders with research on effective strategies for improving college preparation,

enrollment, and degree completion. In 2004, Pathways published *A Shared Agenda: A Leadership Challenge to Improve College Access and Success*, summarizing research-based effective policies and practices drawn from over 650 studies. The Network is directed by the **Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)**, a nonprofit organization in Washington, DC. <http://www.pathwaystocollege.net/>

Standards for Success. This Web site from the Association of American Universities in partnership with The Pew Charitable Trusts, provides a comprehensive set of standards for college success (Knowledge and Skills for University Success) and a state high school assessments database. The database includes information on each state's graduation requirements. <http://cepr.uoregon.edu/cepr.s4s.php>

State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO). SHEEO is a nonprofit, nationwide association of the chief executive officers serving statewide coordinating and governing boards of postsecondary education. This site offers multiple publications and Web links on key issue areas of P-16 reform, including: K-16 initiatives, teacher education, remediation, admissions, early outreach, curricular reform, access and diversity, and workforce development. SHEEO's recent project, *Enhancing the Teaching Profession: The Importance of Mobility to Recruitment and Retention*, has produced several new publications. www.sheeo.org

U.S. Department of Education. ED was created in 1980 by combining offices from several federal agencies. ED's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access. ED's 4,200 employees and \$68.6 billion budget are dedicated to: Establishing policies on federal financial aid for education, and distributing as well as monitoring those funds, Collecting data on America's schools and disseminating research, Focusing national attention on key educational issues and Prohibiting discrimination and ensuring equal access to education. www.ed.gov