



EXECUTIVE BRIEFING FOR ATI PRESIDENTS

Summary:

- Today, a college degree is more critical than ever, and it's incumbent upon educational institutions to ensure that talented students from every part of society have access to an excellent education.
- Unfortunately, at present, too few students from low- and moderate-income backgrounds have access to the full breadth of higher education opportunities available.
- The American Talent Initiative brings together a diverse set of public and private institutions committed to:
 - Enhancing individual efforts to reach out to and enroll lower-income students
 - Learning from each other about how best to support lower-income students
 - Sharing what they learn to expand higher education access across hundreds of colleges and universities
- As of September 7, 2017, 69 Leading Ivy League, state flagship, private universities and liberal arts colleges have joined the initiative. The membership is incredibly diverse, representing 28 states, 6 different Carnegie Classes, and a wide range of institution sizes.

What is at Stake?

- Highly-talented lower-income students are much less likely to graduate with a college degree than their high-income peers.
- When qualified high-achieving, lower-income students attend top-performing colleges and universities, their probability of graduating increases significantly, as do their potential earnings and long-term quality of life.

- These students have earned the opportunity to enroll in institutions with the highest graduation rates and best track records for post-graduate success, but for a variety of reasons—a lack of information about their options, confusion about costs, inadequate financial aid offers—many of them simply lack access.
- Our nation and our economy benefit from cultivating and supporting talented young people from every zip code and income level. Growing disparities in household income make equal opportunity for all talented Americans one of our nation’s most important goals, and ATI seeks to be part of the solution.

What do we aim to accomplish?

- The American Talent Initiative was founded with one central, ambitious goal: by the year 2025, attract, enroll, and graduate 50,000 additional high-achieving, lower-income students at the nation’s 270 colleges and universities with the highest graduation rates by 2025.
- ATI is a long-term alliance between the nation’s top-performing college and universities and the philanthropy and research communities designed to increase the enrollment and success of talented lower-income students while, at the same time, catalyzing broad public awareness about this critical issue and proven solutions.
- While there are many good examples of progress and best practice at individual institutions, an alliance like ATI can—through collective learning and shared commitment—bring about a scale of national change that no institution can accomplish alone.

Who we are:

- ATI is a Bloomberg Philanthropies-supported collaboration between the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program, Ithaca S+R, and a growing alliance of top colleges and universities committed to expanding access and opportunity for lower-income students.
- As of September 7, 2017, 69 leading state flagship, Ivy League, private universities and liberal arts colleges have committed to resolving this national imperative together (see list of members below).
- To maximize the initiative’s reach and impact, in the years to come, ATI aims to expand, including at least 100 more of the 270 colleges and universities with six-year graduation rates consistently above 70 percent.
- Each year, we will reassess institutional eligibility for ATI using the most recently available data in order to expand the reach of our collective work, as well as to incentivize institutions to improve graduation rates to gain full access to our growing knowledge-sharing community.

How Will We Accomplish Our Goals?

The American Talent Initiative will focus on three major areas of activity:

- **Committing to Visible Goals:** To contribute to the shared goal of an additional 50,000 lower-income students, Members commit to stepping up their own efforts to recruit, support, enroll lower-income students and ensure that they thrive on campus, graduate, and are positioned to succeed after college.
- **Facilitating Research and Knowledge Sharing:** To inform our collective actions and activities, members will share what they learn about making progress toward this goal with one another and with the broader higher education community and the public. Members will also report data on lower-income student enrollment and success, so that ATI can measure its aggregate progress on an annual basis.
- **A Sustained National Communications Campaign:** To amplify the impact of our individual and collective actions, ATI members will lead the way in contributing to a national campaign that unites leaders around the importance of socioeconomic diversity on college campuses and motivates those in and beyond the membership to act on this important issue.

American Talent Initiative Participating Institutions as of September 7, 2017	
[INSERT YOUR INSTITUTION HERE]	
Allegheny College	Rice University
Amherst College	Rutgers University
Bard College	Saint Michael’s College
Bates College	Smith College
Baylor University	Spelman College
Brown University	Stanford University
Bucknell University	Swarthmore College
California Institute of Technology	The Ohio State University
Carleton College	University of California, Berkeley

Claremont McKenna College	University of California, Davis
Colby College	University of California, Irvine
Columbia University	University of California, Los Angeles
Cornell University	University of Denver
Dartmouth College	University of Maryland, College Park
Davidson College	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Dickinson College	University of Miami
Duke University	University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
Elizabethtown College	University of Minnesota
Fordham University	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Franklin & Marshall College	University of Pennsylvania
Georgetown University	University of Richmond
Georgia Institute of Technology	University of South Carolina
Gettysburg College	University of Southern California
Harvard University	University of Texas at Austin
Johns Hopkins University	University of Virginia
Kenyon College	University of Washington
Lafayette College	Vanderbilt University
Lawrence University	Vassar College
Lebanon Valley College	Wake Forest University
Lehigh University	Washington University in St. Louis
Marist College	Wesleyan University
New York University	Williams College
Pomona College	Wofford College

Princeton University

Yale University

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