OUR MISSION:
The American Talent Initiative (ATI) was founded with one central, ambitious goal: by the year 2025, to attract, enroll, and graduate 50,000 additional high-achieving, lower-income students at the nation’s colleges and universities with the highest graduation rates.

WHY THIS WORK IS IMPORTANT:

- **The talent is out there.** Each year, thousands of qualified lower-income students do not enroll in high-graduation-rate institutions because they simply lack access. Each year:
  - At least 12,500 lower-income high school students with a 3.7 GPA or above and test scores in the top 10 percent do not enroll in top-performing colleges ([Hoxby & Avery](#), 2013).
  - High-achieving, lower-income students are three times more likely than their high-income peers to either not attend a postsecondary institution, or enroll in a non-four-year institution ([Jack Kent Cooke Foundation](#), 2016).
  - 50,000 lower-income, transfer-ready community college students with GPAs between 3.0 and 4.0 do not transfer to a four-year institution ([ATI analysis](#) of trends in community college transfer, 2018).

- **ATI institutions have the capacity to enroll more talented lower-income students.**
  - Four-year institutions with graduation rates below 70 percent have an aggregate Pell enrollment of 37 percent. At ATI-eligible schools—those with graduation rates of at least 70 percent—Pell enrollment is only 23 percent ([ATI analysis](#) using member-submitted and IPEDS data, 2019).

- **Selective institutions give high-achieving, lower-income students a greater chance to succeed, both at college and beyond.**
  - When lower-income students attend the most selective institutions, they succeed at the same rates as their high-income peers. However, graduation rates steadily drop as school selectivity decreases, and the achievement gap between lower-income and high-income students widens ([Jack Kent Cooke Foundation](#), 2007).
  - College is a proven path to economic mobility. On average, a child from the lowest-income quintile who attends a highly selective college will be in the top 70th percentile of earners by age 34 ([Equality of Opportunity Project](#), 2017).

- **Our institutions and nation benefit from supporting talented young people from every zip code and income level.**
  - A diverse student body enriches the academic and social experience for all students ([Gurin, Dey, Hurtado, and Gurin](#), 2002).
Local economies depend on college graduates: For every four additional college graduates, more than $1 million pours into local communities for local goods and services over a lifetime (Brookings Institute, 2015).

College graduates are 1.7 times more likely to vote, 2.3 times more likely to volunteer, and 2.6 times more likely to be involved in their community than non-graduates (Lumina Foundation, 2015).