



Socioeconomic Diversity Fact Sheet

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](#)).



- o 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).
- o 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).