*Draft template for ATI member institutions 11-9-18*

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**[Member name] Joins Growing National Effort to Graduate More Veterans**

*Coalition of Leading Colleges and Universities Seeks to Boost Enrollment and Graduation of Students Who Have Served in Military*

As part of the American Talent Initiative (ATI), [Member name] is expanding its commitment to/announcing a new commitment to enroll and graduate more of the nation’s military veterans. [Member name] has supported/is committed to supporting military veterans through programs such as [INSERT COMMITMENT OR EXISITING PROGRAM]. Now it is joining dozens of other ATI colleges and universities nationwide who are putting a special focus on veterans — an effort that is aligned to the ATI’s mission to graduate 50,000 additional low- and moderate-income students by 2025.

This week, as America celebrated Veterans Day, [Insert Member Name] joined leaders from higher education, military, and veterans’ organizations at a national convening in Arlington, Virginia, to declare their determination to open new doors to veterans. The American Talent Initiative, one of the organizations featured at the convening, announced that more than 30 ATI members have joined a community of practice focused on improving military veterans’ access to high-graduation-rate institutions. The commitments of these public and private colleges and universities from across the nation will help achieve ATI’s mission to enroll 50,000 additional low- and moderate-income students at top institutions by 2025.

The conference, hosted by the College Board and Ithaka S+R, brought together organizations such as the American Council on Education, the Posse Foundation, the Coalition for College, the Common Application, Service to School, and ATI. Together they explored effective strategies for recruiting and enrolling veterans and for supporting their success on campus through graduation.

[PLACEHOLDER QUOTE] “Our students with a military background bring so much to this campus, from their collaborative and goal-oriented approach to problem-solving to their rich life experiences and diversity of viewpoints,” said [XXX]. “Their leadership, work ethic, and sense of service make a difference on campus and in our country, and we are proud to take this important new step in enrolling and graduating more veterans from [member institution].”

[POSSIBLE PLACE FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION OF INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT TO VETERANS AND/OR COMMENT FROM A VETERAN OR VETERANS’ ADVOCATE ON CAMPUS]

[MEMBER NAME] joined ATI in [20XX]. Formed in 2016 with support from Bloomberg Philanthropies and led by the Aspen Institute’s College Excellence Program and Ithaka S+R, ATI has brought together more than 100 of the nation’s colleges and universities with graduation rates of more than 70 percent to act on their shared commitment to increasing access and success for students from low- and moderate-income households.

Through a community of practice, more than 30 ATI members will focus on facilitating veteran student enrollment, including as transfers from community colleges, providing more support to nontraditional students, and helping students navigate the complicated world of financial aid, including GI Bill benefits. Throughout the year, participating members will collaborate, set goals related to veteran enrollment and graduation, and track progress toward goals through annual data collection.

[PLACEHOLDER QUOTE] “We all benefit when we help veterans succeed,” [said XXX]. “It’s the right thing to do for higher education, and it’s the right thing to do for those who have sacrificed in service of the nation.”

ATI members participating in this community of practice are:

Allegheny College Marist College

Amherst College Muhlenberg College

Bard College The Ohio State University

Bates College Penn State University

Bowdoin College Princeton University

Carleton College Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Claremont McKenna College St. Mary's College of Maryland

Columbia University Swarthmore College

Cornell University University of California, Davis

Emory University University of Maryland, College Park

Georgetown University University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

Harvard University University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Indiana University University of Dayton

Johns Hopkins University Vassar College

Juniata College Williams College

Lebanon Valley College Yale University

Lehigh University

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