



March 20, 2015

Dear CCA Alliance State Higher Education Leader,

We are pleased to announce that Complete College America and the State Higher Education Executive Officers are once again partnering for the fifth annual data collection of the Complete College America/National Governors Association Common College Completion Metrics from CCA Alliance states. The data collection system administered by SHEEO will open April 6th, with June 19th as the target date of completion.

The Common College Completion Metrics were developed and adopted by Complete College America and the National Governors Association in 2010. The 12 metrics provide context, measure outcomes, and report on student progress. Producing and reporting state and institutional completion metrics are a core commitment of the 35 members of the CCA Alliance of States.

SHEEO has long played an important role in the development of higher education data systems and data collection and is a natural partner for CCA in this endeavor. Working with CCA, SHEEO has designed a data collection, warehousing, and reporting system that is secure, web-based, includes built-in data validation features, and will feed into a database designed for easy, effective reporting. **In 2014, 29 Alliance states submitted state level data and 17 of those states also submitted campus-level data.**

Now that the data collection is entering its fifth year, the database will become an increasingly valuable resource to CCA Alliance states. With multiple years of data in the system, it is possible to track trends in each of the metrics and to begin to measure the impact of college completion reforms.

Several states have used the college completion data to drive state-level reforms, for example,

- Twenty-seven states have used the completion metrics to prepare for completion academies at which teams of state policymakers and campus leaders developed state completion plans. Five states have held in-state academies at which campus teams consisting of administrators and faculty developed campus completion plans.
- Indiana, West Virginia, Tennessee, Colorado, Hawaii and Georgia and other states are using completion data to drive large scale reforms in corequisite remediation, 15 to Finish and GPS.

- Ohio, Nevada, Missouri, Montana, Colorado, Indiana and the Houston area are using completion data to design new math pathways for students into and through gateway math courses.

Because of the great potential of the database to inform state, system and institutional efforts to increase college completion rates, CCA and SHEEO are asking all states to expand their data collections to include campus level data from all public postsecondary institutions. We also encourage states to check the accuracy of data submitted in prior years, as our data set grows so will the usage data.

With many states moving to scale on CCA's Game Changers of performance funding corequisite remediation, 15 to Finish, GPS and structured schedules, institutional data will provide the first indication of the impact of these reforms in your state.

Furthermore, CCA will be able to showcase institutions that have seen improvements in their college completion metrics after implementing reforms. As a result, your state will be able to leverage those results to drive replication within your state and nationally.

A great example of the power of collecting institutional data is the Indiana Commission on Higher Education's Indian College Completion Report, 2014. The report has become a critical tool for measuring state and institutional progress toward state college completion goals and the impact of specific reforms. You can view it at:

http://www.in.gov/che/files/2014_Completion_Report_Full_Report.pdf

CCA and SHEEO will hold two webinars for board, agency, and commission staff to introduce changes to the web-based system and updates to metrics definitions. The first webinar will be held April 8th at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The second webinar will follow on April 16th at 2:00 p.m. Eastern. Information on the webinars as well as the collection process is available at <http://ccacollection.sheeo.org>. Should you have any questions related to the metrics collection, please contact Bruce Vandal, Vice President at CCA (bvandal@completecollege.org, 303-483-8522), or Katie Zaback, Senior Policy Analyst at SHEEO (KZaback@sheeo.org, 303-541-1622).

Sincerely,



Stan Jones
President
Complete College America



George Pernsteiner
President
State Higher Education Executive Officers