

National Association of System Heads Calls For At Least 350,000 More College Graduates in 10 Years

For Immediate Release: Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014

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Washington, DC – At today’s White House Summit on College Opportunity, National Association of System Heads Chair Nancy L. Zimpher, chancellor of The State University of New York, called on systems of higher education across the country to adopt measures that will lead to 350,000 more college graduates by 2025.

“To move the dial on completion, we need to act collectively—and we need to do so with a holistic and integrated strategy that sets clear targets, identifies effective interventions, and leverages the power of systems,” said Chancellor Zimpher. “As the only convener of the nation’s higher education systems, NASH is uniquely positioned to be the vehicle by which we can increase the nation’s completion rate at the broadest possible scale.”

To answer the call, NASH is launching the **Taking Student Success to Scale (TS³)** initiative to produce at least 350,000 new college graduates by 2025. Already, 14 systems have signed on to adopt at least one of the proven strategies outlined by TS³ to collectively move the dial on completion.

Through discussions with system heads and chief academic officers over the past six months, NASH has identified the following evidence-based interventions that will contribute to the completion goal. Initially, those strategies are:

- 1) **Guided Pathways Using Predictive Analytics**, which includes using tools such as Degree Compass and the Education Advisory Board to establish an infrastructure to identify and track at-risk students. This will provide systems with a valuable ability to map interventions to specific student needs.
- 2) **Redesigning the Math Pathway**, including innovative approaches such as Mathways, and Statway/Quantway. By increasing the number of remedial math students who complete courses for college credit, students are more likely to persist and graduate in their programs of study, as well as gain critical skills that are critical to career success.
- 3) **High Impact Practices for All Students**, which makes high engagement learning experiences such as undergraduate research and community-based learning part of every student’s completion pathway.

To date, 14 of the nation’s largest systems, which comprise more than 100 campuses and 1,402,455 students, have committed to increasing the number of degrees completed as part of the TS³ initiative. To leverage the power of the nation’s higher education systems, the project

will be based on a collective impact approach and networked improvement communities will be formed around each of these interventions.

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