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**Gateway to College National Network Announces 2013 CGI America Commitment to Action:
Invites partners to re-engage high school dropouts**

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Gateway to College National Network (GtCNN), a national organization with headquarters in Portland, Oregon dedicated to working with community colleges and public school districts to engage high school dropouts and those at the greatest risk of dropping out, announces its commitment to establish two new Gateway to College programs in the coming year. This effort is part of a Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) Commitment to Action, and was made in June at the Clinton Global Initiative America (CGI America) meeting in Chicago where former President Bill Clinton lauded Gateway to College for its commitment to “build avenues for at-risk students to complete high school and earn postsecondary credentials.”

“Only 10% of Americans raised in low income families graduate from college by age 24 compared to 70% raised in upper middle class families,” said President Clinton in his closing remarks of the two-day meeting of national leaders in business, philanthropy and non-profits. “What prevents us from reaching our economic potential is not a deficiency in ideas, but in opportunity.”

“In this time of back-to-school preparations it’s important to remember how many young people are not returning to school, giving up on the kind of credentials that lead to good jobs” says GtCNN’s President, Laurel Dukehart. “Every year, over one million students fail to graduate from high school. They face a future of uncertainty and limited opportunity, with much higher rates of poverty, unemployment, and incarceration. Gateway to College provides young people with a second chance to earn their high school diploma while simultaneously building skills and gaining credits to complete college successfully.”

With this commitment, Gateway to College will build on its success of growing from its founding at Portland Community College in Oregon to 42 colleges across 22 states today. Gateway to College programs are sustainable and free to students because the National Network works with its funders to provide start-up costs for the colleges and its public school district partners. When students begin to enroll, the school district funding supports their high school completion while they earn college credits.

The model helps school districts meet graduation rate goals and the college knows it is preparing students for the level of work they expect. “Most importantly,” says Dukehart, “the program makes college a reality, not just a good idea, for the most vulnerable students.”

Gateway to College is now seeking individuals, companies and foundations to partner with to offer two startup grants to establish two new sites and expand on our record of success. The CGI America Commitment to Action states, “GtCNN seeks colleges and K-12 school districts that have an alignment of goals to engage disconnected youth and have demonstrated institutional commitment to establish a GtC program. Further, GtCNN will evaluate the state policy and funding context that will sustain each new program into the future. GtCNN will then determine the institutional and leadership capacity and priorities of prospective college and school district partners. At the end of this due diligence, GtCNN will have two partnerships between colleges and school districts to proceed with two new GtC programs.”

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About Gateway to College National Network

Gateway to College National Network builds the capacity of colleges, school districts, and states to revolutionize education for high school dropouts and underprepared college students so that all young people can achieve college credentials. Our strategies include creating and replicating innovative programs, building partnerships between K-12 and higher education institutions, influencing systems, conducting research and sharing what we know, helping effect policy and regulatory changes, and providing customized consulting services to colleges and school districts. For more information, visit our website www.gatewaytocollege.org, follow on Twitter @gtcnn, or Facebook at www.facebook.com/gatewaytocollegeNN.

About the Clinton Global Initiative

Established in 2005 by President Bill Clinton, the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), an initiative of Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation, convenes global leaders to create and implement innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing challenges. CGI Annual Meetings have brought together more than 150 heads of state, 20 Nobel Prize laureates, and hundreds of leading CEOs, heads of foundations and NGOs, major philanthropists, and members of the media. To date CGI members have made more than 2,300 commitments, which are already improving the lives of more than 400 million people in over 180 countries. When fully funded and implemented, these commitments will be valued at \$73.5 billion.

CGI also convenes CGI America, a meeting focused on collaborative solutions to economic recovery in the United States, and CGI University (CGI U), which brings together undergraduate and graduate students to address pressing challenges in their community or around the world, and, this year, CGI Latin America, which will bring together Latin American leaders to identify, harness, and strengthen ways to improve the livelihoods of people in Latin America and around the world. For more information, visit clintonglobalinitiative.org and follow us on Twitter [@ClintonGlobal](https://twitter.com/ClintonGlobal) and Facebook at facebook.com/clintonglobalinitiative.