



**National  
College  
Access  
Network**

*Building Connections  
Advancing Equity  
Promoting Success*

## NCAN Daily E-Brief

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January 22, 2013

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### **ACCESS and SUCCESS**

#### **Noncognitive Measures Are ‘Not a Magic Wand’**

Eric Hoover, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 1/18/2013

At a conference here hosted by the University of Southern California’s Center for Enrollment Research, Policy, and Practice, many attendees have predicted that the future of college admissions will include more assessments of attributes not captured by standardized-test scores and grade-point averages. As science reveals more and more about what matters in learning, it follows that our measures of merit will evolve.

#### **National public high school graduation rate at a four-decade high**

Lindsey Layton, *The Washington Post*, 1/22/2013

The percentage of students at public high schools who graduate on time has reached its highest level in nearly 40 years, according to the most recent federal government estimates released Tuesday. Based on data collected from the states for the Class of 2010, the National Center for Education Statistics estimated that 78 percent of students across the country earned a diploma within four years of starting high school. The graduation rate was last at that level in 1974, officials said.

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### RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS

**Webinars**

**Member Tools**

**NCAN Member Twitter Feed**

**Advisor Training Module**

**Research to Practice**

**Building Blocks Toolkit**

### **DIVERSITY and EQUITY**

#### **Colleges Must Pay More Heed to Needs of Adult Learners, Paper Says**

Andrew Mytelka, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 1/21/2013

The needs of “post-traditional learners” are being neglected amid all the attention being paid to MOOCs and other technological innovations in higher education, according to a new paper commissioned by the American Council on Education. In the paper, “Post-traditional Learners and the Transformation of Postsecondary



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## CAREERS

Please contact Amina Anderson Pringle at [pringlea@collegeaccess.org](mailto:pringlea@collegeaccess.org) with current openings, to make changes, or with any questions you may have regarding the Careers page.  
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Education: A Manifesto for College Leaders,” Mr. Soares concludes that such adult learners, ages 25 to 64 and lacking a college credential, are being underserved by current higher-education institutions even as their share of enrollments grows

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## PAYING for COLLEGE

### [Ending the Merit Aid Merry-Go-Round](#)

Stephen Burd, New America Foundation, 1/16/2013

A group of private college leaders are calling for a cease fire in the institutional financial aid arms war. S. Georgia Nugent, the president of Kenyon College, is spearheading a movement to try to get her fellow college presidents to agree to recommit themselves to providing need-based financial aid, rather than merit scholarships and tuition discounts. This is an extremely admirable effort but unfortunately -- as Kenyon College’s own experience shows -- it’s unlikely to have much of an impact.

### [Rachel's Resource Review: The U.S. Department of Education's studentaid.gov](#)

Rachel Fishman, New America Foundation, 1/15/2013

The 2013-14 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now available, and students and families are already logging on to complete the application. Since almost every college uses the FAFSA to determine aid eligibility and financial aid packages, millions of current and prospective students fill one out every year. But due to the complexity of our federal financial aid system, the process for learning about and applying for financial aid can be intimidating and overwhelming. This year a new U.S. Department of Education web resource—studentaid.gov—provides students and families with clearer information about federal financial aid and the financial aid application process.

### [Helpful Social Media Tools to Promote FAFSA Completion](#)

Brenda Wensil, Information for Financial Aid Professionals, 1/18/2013

FSA provides more than \$150 billion in grants, loans, and work-study funds each year to help pay for college or career school and as you know, completing the FAFSA is the primary step for determining eligibility for federal student aid and subsequently accessing these funds. With the 2013-14 application having gone live January 1, FSA’s Digital Engagement Group is asking for your assistance in promoting FAFSA completion.

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## **POLICY and ADVOCACY**

### **[In Inaugural Address, Obama Singles Out Immigrant Students](#)**

Andrew Mytelka, The Chronicle of Higher Education, 1/21/2013

After taking the oath of office for his second term, President Obama delivered a speech touching on many themes and issues. One passage of interest to higher education concerned the importance of welcoming foreign-born students, both visitors and immigrants, to American colleges, and making it possible for them to remain in the United States, even if they entered the country illegally: "Our journey is not complete," he said, "until we find a better way to welcome the striving, hopeful immigrants who still see America as a land of opportunity, until bright young students and engineers are enlisted in our work force rather than expelled from our country."

### **[It's the Economy, Stupid](#)**

Kevin Kiley, Inside Higher Ed, 1/21/2013

While there's a lot of chatter and pessimism about how the Great Recession changed the nature of states' relationships with their higher education institutions, this year's Grapevine survey of state appropriations hints that the new normal might be more normal than new. State revenues and appropriations to higher education tend to lag after a crisis, but right on cue they seem to be showing modest stabilization and improvement, just like the national economy.

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## **DATA and EVALUATION**

### **[Upcoming Enhancements to MyStudentData Download on NSLDS](#)**

Pamela Eliadis, Information for Financial Aid Professionals, 1/18/2013

Federal Student Aid is pleased to announce that on January 27, 2013, "MyStudentData Download" functionality will be enhanced on the NSLDS Student Access Web site. As previously described in an August 16, 2012 electronic announcement, posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site, MyStudentData Download (previously referred to as the MyData Button) allows students to download their loan, grant, enrollment, and overpayment information from the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) into a machine-readable, plain text file.

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## **Dates & Deadlines**

**[WEBINAR: College Abacus: An Introduction to the 'Kayak.com of College Financial Aid'](#)**

Presenter: College Abacus, Host: NCAN, January 23, 2013

The Chronicle of Higher Education recently announced that College Abacus has given net price calculators “the Kayak treatment”; much as Kayak.com created the “search one and done” experience for travel, College Abacus is the free one-stop search for comparing higher education pricing. Now available in Spanish and English, College Abacus allows college-bound students and their families to search and compare net prices - tuition and fees minus grant aid - across more than 2500 schools. This webinar will explain how college access programs can use College Abacus to help guide students to affordable schools.

#### **Notices of Funds Availability / Notices of Funding Opportunities**

Staff, AmeriCorps, Applications are due Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

The mission of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic participation through service and volunteering. CNCS—through its AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs and the Social Innovation Fund—has helped to engage millions of citizens in meeting community and national challenges through service and volunteer action. This AmeriCorps State and National (AmeriCorps) Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity Notice (Notice) will focus grant making for fiscal year 2013 in six focus areas identified by the Serve America Act (SAA): Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, Veterans and Military Families

#### **Breaking the Monopoly of Mediocrity**

**Staff, Institute for Competitive Workforce, Birmingham, AL, January 24 & 25th**

The Institute for a Competitive Workforce, the education and workforce policy affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, is embarking on a cross-country tour from October 2012 to March 2013 to discuss education reform in local communities and inspire local leaders to become catalysts for change. Too few students are completing their K-12 education. Thirty percent of U.S. students fail to graduate from high school in four years—and the dropout rate is nearly 50% for African-Americans and Hispanics.

The ‘Breaking the Monopoly of Mediocrity’ tour will include:

- An interactive forum of local business leaders, educators, and community leaders facilitated by education reform policy experts and practitioners. Participants will have an opportunity to strategize with other leaders in the community on the best ways to implement change.
- A screening of the film *Won’t Back Down*—a story of a single mother’s struggle to create meaningful change in her daughter’s chronically failing school.
- Key resources, including a customized fact sheet detailing relevant

education and workforce data of the community.

### **PeyBack Foundation Accepting Grant Applications for Programs Serving At-Risk Children**

**Staff, Philanthropy News Digest, Deadline: February 1, 2013**

Established by Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning, the PeyBack Foundation is a nonprofit organization which makes grants every year to programs that provide leadership and growth opportunities for at-risk children in the Denver metro area, Indiana, Louisiana, and Tennessee. The foundation focuses on economically disadvantaged children and youth. Applicants must be nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations serving economically disadvantaged children between the ages of 6 and 18 in the Denver metro area, Indiana, Louisiana, and Tennessee. Grants are limited to a maximum of \$15,000; most grants funded will be around \$10,000. The foundation prefers not to be the only financial resource for a program. Applications demonstrating collaborative efforts with partnering organizations will be given priority. Funding is provided to support program-specific expenses, not an organization's general administrative expenses.

### **Breaking the Monopoly of Mediocrity**

**Staff, Institute for Competitive Workforce, Jefferson City, MO, February 6 & 7th**

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### **Social Impact Exchange Business Plan Competition**

**Staff, Social Impact Exchange, Deadline: Round 2 is Feb 18, 2013**

The Competition identifies social sector scaling initiatives with demonstrated impact and readiness to scale – and supports them with financial and consulting awards. The Competition helps develop a strong pipeline of scale-ready initiatives and provides

them with resources to take the next step successfully. During an 8-month evaluation process, entrants develop and submit business plans to scale their impact and improve the lives of people in need. Judging is conducted on a pro bono basis by professionals from the private, public and nonprofit sectors. Competition entrants have access to a website of resources on scaling, take part in group training and one-on-one consulting, and receive customized written feedback on their plans. The final round of the Social Impact Business Plan Competition takes place in June in New York City.

### **Breaking the Monopoly of Mediocrity**

**Staff, Institute for Competitive Workforce, Tacoma-Pierce County, WA, February 20**

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### **The Buick Achievers Scholarship Program**

**Staff, Buick Achievers Scholarship Program, Deadline: February 28, 2013**

The Buick Achievers Scholarship Program wants to reward students who have succeeded both inside and outside of the classroom—and who may not be able to attend college without financial assistance. It's a reward for what you've made of yourself and the difference you are making for others. The Buick Achievers Scholarship Program is offering:

- Up to \$25,000 per year for 100 first-time freshman or existing college students, renewable up to four years and one additional year for those entering a qualified five-year engineering program.
- \$2,000 one-time awards for an additional 1,000 students.
- Students must be high school seniors or graduates or be current undergraduate students, plan to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an

accredited four-year college or university based in the U.S. or Puerto Rico for the entire 2013–14 academic year (excluding proprietary and online schools

- Plan to major in a specified course of study that focuses on Engineering/Technology or select Design and Business-related programs of study. See the list of eligible majors, be interested in pursuing a career in the automotive or related industries
- Be U.S. citizens and have permanent residence in the United States or Puerto Rico

### **Breaking the Monopoly of Mediocrity**

**Staff, Institute for Competitive Workforce, Trenton, NJ, March 14th**

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### **Breaking the Monopoly of Mediocrity**

**Staff, Institute for Competitive Workforce, San Diego, CA, April 8th & 9th**

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