

August 28, 2009

10-014

ENDORSE "AMERICAN GRADUATION INITIATIVE"

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REPORT: President Obama announced on 14 July 2009 his intention to champion an "American Graduation Initiative" in a speech at Macomb (Michigan) Community College. This initiative will:

- Call for 5 million additional community college graduates by 2020;
- Create the Community College Challenge Fund;
- Fund innovative strategies to promote college completion;
- Modernize Community College facilities;
- Create a new online skills laboratory

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) has recently passed a resolution (attached) supporting the American Graduation Initiative, and has asked that individual community colleges do so as well.

RECOMMENDATION: That Portland Community College endorse the "American Graduation Initiative".



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Resolution of Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges on President Obama's "American Graduation Initiative"

Whereas, community colleges are the largest and fastest growing sector of higher education in the U.S., educating more than 45% of all undergraduate students as well as more than five million additional non-credit students;

Whereas there is a national consensus that the United States needs to provide greater numbers and percentages of its citizens with a higher education, as a moral, social, and economic imperative;

Whereas community colleges continue to need greater financial and related support as well as a new national focus, in order to fully realize their potential in helping more Americans obtain a college education and meet related career and personal goals;

Whereas President Obama has specifically set the goal of increasing the number of community college graduates by 5 million by 2020, along with ambitious national goals concerning postsecondary education;

Whereas President Obama's "America Graduation Initiative" recognizes the centrality of community colleges to America's well-being, and need for financial resources to help those institutions;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges formally endorses the American Graduation Initiative and commits to doing everything it can to achieve its enactment.

George R. Boggs

George Boggs, President & CEO

Mary F. T. Spilde

Mary F.T. Spilde, Board Chair