

States participating in the Complete College America Alliance commit to three actions:

- **Set completions goals:** Establish annual state and campus-specific goals.
- **Develop action plans and move key policy levers:** Create strategies to redesign remediation, reduce time to degree, and provide financial incentives to students and colleges for completion.
- **Collect and report common measures of progress:** Use consistent data and progression measures to create a culture that values completion, including annual public reporting of benchmark and progress data.

To join the Alliance, governors are asked to submit a letter by March 27, 2015, co-signed by the state's higher education system leadership, indicating the following:

- *Our state will assemble a team of committed leaders to advance the Complete College America policy agenda. (Team will consist of governor's staff, legislators, postsecondary leaders, statewide business and labor leaders, and others).*
- *Within six months, our team will:*
 - *Produce state baseline completion data using common measures;*
 - *Set state and campus completion goals; and*
 - *Develop state and campus completion plans.*
- *Our state will publicly report on progress towards the goals on an annual basis.*
- *Our state has designated (insert name, title, and contact information) as the state's liaison to Complete College America.*

Additional information on Complete College America is available at www.completecollege.org; here you will find our recent reports on moving the completion agenda forward. If our nation is to measurably improve college completion rates, action must first and foremost be taken at the state level—by governors, within legislatures, among higher education officials, and on college campuses.

Thank you for your commitment to completion. We look forward to working with you on this important agenda. Please contact us at 317-829-0483 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Stan Jones
President, Complete College America

cc: James Burns, Chief of Staff; Richard Sutton, Executive Director - Commission on Higher Education

COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA

February 24, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
State of South Carolina
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

I am writing to invite you to join the Complete College America Alliance of States. For our states and country to remain economically competitive, six of ten adults between the ages of 25 and 35 will need to hold a postsecondary degree or credential of value in the labor market by 2020. Currently at 35 members, the Alliance is a select group of leading states committed to doing just that – taking bold actions to significantly increase the number of students successfully completing college and close attainment gaps for traditionally underserved populations.

Every state's long-term economic growth is tied to the educational attainment of its citizens. However, in every state across the country, too few students are earning postsecondary degrees. Once first in the world, the U.S. now ranks 10th in the percentage of young adults with a college degree; and only half of the students who begin college ever graduate. It's an abysmal record that, left unchanged, condemns our country to falling international competitiveness and our families to a shrinking standard of living.

The Complete College America Alliance of States is designed to help you and other committed state leaders reverse these trends. Complete College America is the only national organization focused solely on supporting states to dramatically improve college completion rates. Founded in 2009, we are an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that has provided tangible and practical support to help states implement a range of statewide strategies—remedial education reform, structured academic programs, improved time to degree, data collection, performance funding — that will bring needed changes in the culture and practices of public postsecondary institutions.

The state members of the Alliance receive in-depth technical assistance from America's leading experts on improving college success, including assistance in building consensus for reform and developing policy action plans that support high-impact, large scale college completion strategies. Alliance state leaders are also eligible for unique multi-state policy forums sponsored by Complete College America.