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September 27, 2010

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Riverside City College and City of Riverside receive \$3 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; one of only four U.S. cities

Riverside CLIP sets ambitious goal to get more low-income youth to complete college

RIVERSIDE--The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the National League of Cities announced that Riverside is one of four cities receiving a combined \$12 million in grants to fund innovative proposals to boost college completion rates. The grants are part of the Communities Learning in Partnership initiative, which is led by the National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education and Families.

Riverside City College and the City of Riverside will receive \$3 million over the next three years to align expectations between high school and college, strengthen data systems, and coordinate student services. Last year, the Riverside partnership received a \$250,000 planning grant to bring together mayors and other municipal leaders, K-12 superintendents, and community colleges to devise new ways of helping more students successfully complete an education beyond high school.

"It was a transformative opportunity for our civic and education leaders to work together on a plan to raise the college completion rates and increase our community's talent dividend," said Mayor Ron Loveridge. "We have always been a city that values our colleges and universities and supports our school districts; this award allows us to offer a distinct educational advantage to our young people."

Community colleges are critical to economic development because they offer affordable training and degrees to local residents. Indeed, across the country, enrollment is at an all-time high as students and displaced workers seek an edge in a tight job market. Yet history shows that less than one-quarter of students earn a degree within three years. Often it's not a question of effort. Rather, today's students face multiple challenges: Many are not academically ready for college-level work; they juggle school and family responsibilities; and many must work full time while attending classes.

"Responding to the needs of a diverse group of students requires an active and innovative approach," RCCD Chancellor Gregory Gray noted. "Getting students into college is one

obstacle to overcome, getting those same students—many of whom face financial, family, work, and college readiness issues—to successfully complete college is even more difficult. As this region’s largest community college system, we intend to tackle those tough issues through the Riverside CLIP initiative.”

For Riverside the numbers are stark. As part of the CLIP planning process, a Riverside P-14 Data Consortium analysis of the entering seniors in the Class of 2002 revealed that 6 years later only 17.5% had earned a degree or certificate.

With this new initiative the community college district and RCC, the City of Riverside, the Alvord and Riverside unified school districts and the County Office of Education, the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, UC Riverside, and other key educational, business and community leaders, intends to boost the college going and college completion rates.

A broad overview of Riverside CLIP shows four areas of action:

1. Increasing the capacity and ability for data-driven action through the Riverside P-14 Data Consortium and routinely share and report data on the postsecondary success of Riverside’s students. New strategies will strengthen program assessment, allow for publically reporting progress, and the expansion of a college-minded population.
2. Create a citywide college-minded culture where all stakeholders adopt successful completion of post-secondary education as the standard for the community.
3. Aligning curriculum, career pathways, and services that impact student success and college completion through early assessment and accelerated college readiness programs, and career and technical education improvements.
4. Create engaging technologies that coordinate our community resources, inform parents, students and workers seeking retraining about college opportunities, and enhance the way in which higher education is delivered to students.

“We know that in today’s economic climate and labor market, a high school diploma is no longer enough,” said Allan Golston, president of the U.S. Program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. “We must not only ensure that young people have access to college; we must ensure that they go on to complete college and earn a degree or certificate with value in the workplace.”

According to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, the U.S. labor market will be short 3 million college-educated workers over the next eight years unless there is a dramatic increase in the number of young adults who successfully complete college. The mayors of the four cities receiving grants today recognize increasing completion rates requires the coordinated efforts of government agencies, higher education institutions, community groups, and the private sector.

The other three cities that received today’s grants include New York, San Francisco, and Mesa, Arizona. Over the next three years, these grants will support efforts to coordinate and streamline the guidance and services young people need to get into, and through, college.

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Riverside City College

Riverside City College, part of the Riverside Community College District, is the most dynamic and diverse college in the Inland Empire. From its opening in 1916, RCC has grown to be one of California's leading community colleges and is a landmark in downtown Riverside.

Serving more than 19,000 students each semester, RCC provides students with a wide range of choices including associate's degree programs, transfer to a four-year college or university, or career certificates that prepare them to enter the workforce. Riverside City College is home to strong programs in liberal arts, science, performing arts, the School of Nursing and athletics.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, Washington, the foundation is led by CEO Jeff Raikes and Co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett.

The National League of Cities

The National League of Cities is the nation's oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans. For more information, visit www.nlc.org.

12TH GRADE 2001

100%

GRADUATES 2002

89%

COLLEGE GOING FALL 2002

39%

PERSISTENCE FALL 2003

32%

DEGREES OR
CERTIFICATES WITHIN
150% OF NORMAL TIME

15%

City of Riverside Postsecondary Success Pipeline in Percentage

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



RIVERSIDE **CLIP** *initiative* Communities Learning in Partnership

Riverside - Communities Learning in Partnership (CLIP)

Lead by the Mayor and RCCD Chancellor; CLIP is a partnership to engage the community in a concerted effort to improve college access and success within the City of Riverside. Through its efforts, CLIP will build a college-minded culture, promote student success, and align education and support services to:

- Ensure students graduate high school ready for college and career. Reduce the need for “catch-up” courses;
- Foster postsecondary “college” completion as the standard for educational attainment for all youth;
- Increase capacity to share and use data to drive change and publically report progress;
- Improve curriculum alignment across educational segments, and coordinate the city’s network of support services;
- Promote completion of college degrees and certificates with value in the marketplace.

Goal - Create systemic change that will improve the following student outcomes:

- College-readiness
- College going
- Degrees and certificates with value in the market place
- Employment outcomes

Focus Areas:

Partnership Capacity for Data-Driven Action: RLP, through the Riverside P-14 Data Consortium, plans to strengthen its capacity to share and use data to drive change, publically report progress, and build commitment. RLP’s research agenda includes tracking student and system outcomes, annual production of a postsecondary success pipeline and report card, program assessment, assessment of college-minded culture, economic impact analyses, and capacity to interpret and act on data.

Strategic Communication Plan and Action to Build a College-Minded Culture: A strategic communication plan will be implemented to foster a citywide college-minded culture committing key stakeholders and the community at-large to postsecondary completion as the standard for educational attainment for all young adults in Riverside. The plan will draw upon Passport to College strategies, existing K-12 messaging, and include a public call to action, a postsecondary success pipeline and city report card, and targeted messaging within schools, programs, and communities.

Curriculum Alignment, Career Pathways, and Coordinated Services: Three initiatives are planned to align, coordinate, and improve postsecondary success pathways and supports. Together, they address identified barriers and opportunities by targeting college-readiness (rigor), relevance through clear pathways, and essential coordinated support services.

- **Early Assessment and Accelerated College Preparation:** Serving ASUD and RUSD, Grade 12-13 learning communities will directly benefit students identified as underprepared for college through California’s Early Assessment Program (EAP). Each year, high school seniors will concurrently enroll in RCC student-paced, instructor-led skills modules delivered in 12th grade college prep courses on their high school campus. Graduates can bridge to RCC with continued access to services and workshops throughout their first-year experience. This initiative will begin a focused curriculum alignment dialogue and inform changes in RCC assessment and developmental education policy and practice -- areas specifically identified as barriers to college success.
- **Career and Technical Education (CTE) Initiative:** Formation of integrated industry advisory councils incorporating expanded business-industry roles. Focus will be on curriculum alignment anchored by employer expectations to produce clear pathways to degrees and certificates with value in the marketplace. Plans are to connect RLP partners and local industry representatives with panels of recognized leaders in employer engagement.
- **Web-Enabled Public Information Function and Coordinated Network of Academic, Student, and Social Support Services:** A welcome center will be staffed by a cross-trained team with expertise in the array of services necessary to help low-income and other populations engage and succeed. From this hub, a web-based public information function, now referred to as College 311, will enable round-the-clock access and serve as a comprehensive resource for the city’s network of educational, social, and community service providers.