



## **Gateway to College National Network Offers Funding for College/K-12 Partnerships to Serve Out-Of-School Youth**

PORTLAND, Oregon (June 2, 2011) – Gateway to College National Network (GtCNN) has funds available for partnerships between colleges and K-12 school districts to implement the Gateway to College dropout recovery program.

This year, GtCNN will select up to nine college/K-12 partnerships to enter into multi-year contracts of between \$300,000 and \$450,000. GtCNN has identified the following target states for the current round of funding: Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington. Please contact Ashley Wilkins, Coordinator of Organizational Development, at [awilkins@gatewaytocollege.org](mailto:awilkins@gatewaytocollege.org) for more information. (Funding may also be available to partnerships in states not listed above on a case-by-case basis.)

In addition to start-up funds, successful applicants will receive training, technical assistance, professional development opportunities, and program evaluation—from the initial year of planning and training, through program implementation, and for as long as the program remains in the network.

### **The Gateway to College Model**

Gateway to College is a nationally-recognized dual credit program that serves youth who have dropped out of school or are significantly behind in credits and unlikely to graduate. GtC classes are taught on the college campus. Students begin with the Foundation Experience, a learning community where students take developmental reading, writing, and math. After completing Foundation, students transition to regular college classes where they continue working toward their high school diploma and, simultaneously, an associate's degree. Each student is assigned a student support staff member who acts as a mentor and advisor by providing the support and individual attention that is vital to successfully serving this student population.

Gateway to College at the local level is inherently sustainable—the initial start-up funding pays for planning and early implementation costs until the program begins serving students and K-12 per-pupil expenditures start coming in. These local dollars fund an increasing percentage of program costs, with each program demonstrating a sustainable budget funded primarily by K-12 dollars by about the end of their second year serving students.

### **Successful applicants for start-up funds will demonstrate:**

- Flexible systems that allow students to earn a high school diploma (either through the college or in cooperation with a K-12 partner) and provide access to public K-12 education funds for high school completion;

- Strong partnerships between the college and the local school district(s) involved in program implementation;
- The desire to embrace the Gateway to College academic approach and student support strategies at every level throughout the college; and,
- Compatibility of the Gateway to College model with the mission and vision of the college and school district, in order to support the required commitment to working with dropout youth.

Visit the Gateway to College National Network website ([www.gatewaytocollege.org/start.asp](http://www.gatewaytocollege.org/start.asp)) for complete program guidelines and application information. The initial application process will close on August 1, 2011. Contracts will be announced in late-Fall 2011.

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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. We currently serve Gateway to College programs at thirty-one community colleges in seventeen states. Our strategies include: creating and replicating innovative programs, building partnerships, influencing systems, conducting research and sharing what we know, helping effect policy and regulatory changes, and providing customized consulting services. We also provide ongoing technical assistance, data and evaluation services, and professional development opportunities to our partner programs across the country. Gateway to College National Network is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, Walmart Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, and Carnegie Corporation of New York. Visit [www.gatewaytocollege.org](http://www.gatewaytocollege.org) for more information.