



POSTSECONDARY STATE POLICY NETWORK

Jobs for the Future's Postsecondary State Policy Network (PSPN) helps states and their community colleges dramatically increase the number of students who earn high-value credentials. Led by JFF, the network is a 15-state collaboration committed to advancing state policy agendas that accelerate community college student success and completion. JFF helps teams from the network states maximize peer learning and develop and implement policies that promote community college student success.

JFF provides a comprehensive suite of tools and services, including policy guidance and technical assistance, that helps key state actors create the policy conditions in which community colleges can implement evidence-based, institution-wide innovations. Our work is informed by the Policy Leadership Trust for Student Success at JFF, a group of college and state leaders—from states in the PSPN and across the nation—who provide thought leadership in tackling higher education's most pressing issues. We address high-leverage policy areas including building pathways to credentials, redesigning developmental education, improving credit transfer between community colleges and four-year institutions, and making outcomes-based funding work best for students.

Reaching Over Half of the Community College

Students in the Nation. The Postsecondary State Policy Network includes 15 states that are at the leading edge of improving student success in community colleges. Among these states are those serving the largest and most diverse student populations in the country. Ranging from California to Texas and New York, the PSPN connects 50 percent of the nation's community colleges as they work to support the success of 60 percent of the students in public 2-year colleges.

Commitment to Student Success. The states in the PSPN have proven their commitment to improving student success by tackling and navigating bold, statewide changes. Many of the states were early adopters of the student success agenda, taking the risk to join Achieving the Dream at its very beginning, and agreeing to undergo evaluation and documentation of their efforts. Over the past decade, JFF has supported the PSPN in driving some of the most watched and talked-about statewide changes. For example:

- > **Virginia** redesigned developmental education at its 23 community colleges to move students more quickly to college-level work and implemented a new placement test that better measures students' readiness for college courses.
- > **North Carolina** redesigned developmental education for both math and English, implemented a new diagnostic assessment

and placement test, and adopted a new multiple measures placement policy.

- > **Ohio** designed a funding system that rewards colleges for student progress and success at strategic points, such as the completion of developmental education courses and subsequent enrollment in college-level courses.
- > **Texas** launched the New Mathways Project, paid for by all 50 of the state's community college districts, to improve the delivery of developmental math instruction.

A Long-Established Learning and Action Community.

The states in the PSPN work collaboratively to develop new ideas and solutions to common problems. Through conversations structured and facilitated by JFF, the states regularly share challenges and breakthrough solutions, and analyze ideas through from the perspectives of their differing political and economic contexts. To create the time and space for those conversations, JFF hosts a series of face-to-face meetings, analyzes and disseminates state activities through publications and social media, reviews and distributes the best field research, and maintains communications with newsletters, webinars, and cross-state affinity groups and conversations connected by JFF. The states in the PSPN work and learn together as colleagues and friends, and maintain—even in the face of staff transitions, changes in governance, and political and economic fluctuations—a robust community committed to improving student success.

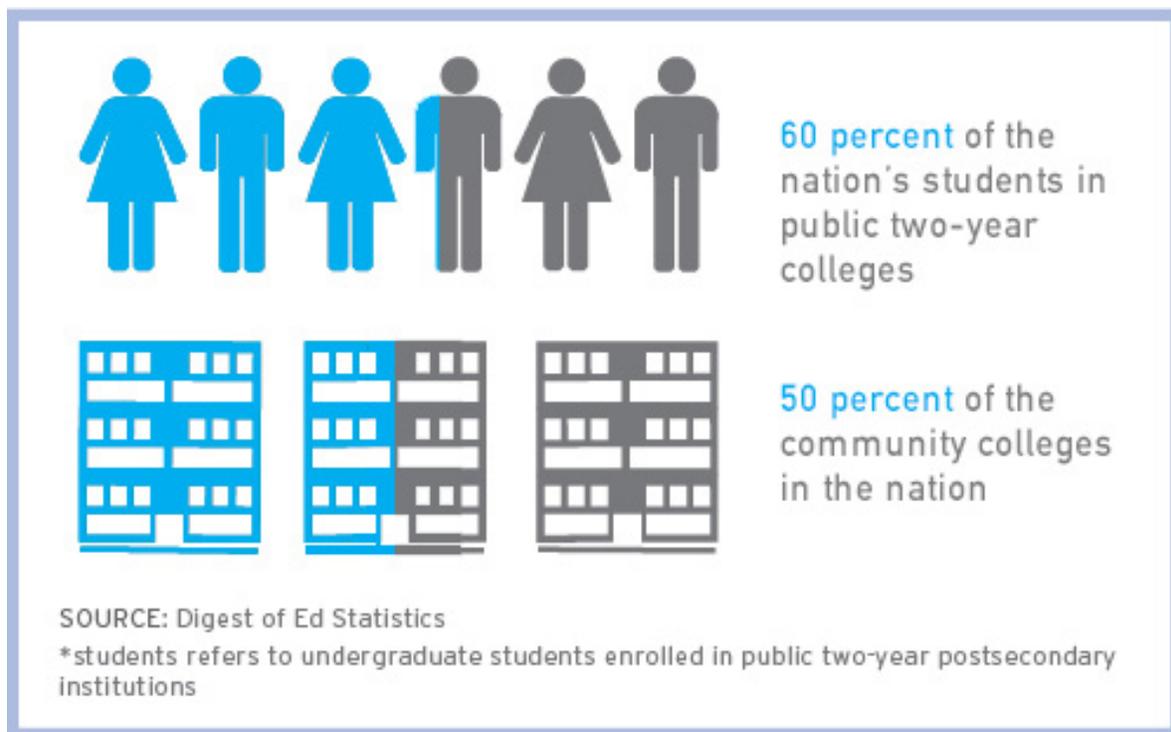
Strength in Diversity. States participate in the PSPN through a number of national college completion initiatives and supporters, including:

- > **Achieving the Dream, Inc.**, supported by the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust: Community college systems in five states with strong Achieving the Dream college participation have the opportunity to learn and share with their peers in service to strengthening state-level action to drive and accelerate student success and completion. *Participating states are: Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, and Virginia.*
- > **Completion by Design**, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: JFF works with community college associations and state systems in three states to significantly increase completion and graduation rates for low-income students under 26. JFF helps state teams identify and implement policies that support college efforts to provide needed structure for the student experience, from initial connection

to college through completion or transfer. *Participating states are: Florida, North Carolina, and Ohio.*

- > **Student Success Center Network**, supported by The Kresge Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: JFF supports new and emerging state-level Student Success Centers that organize each state's community colleges around common action to improve persistence and completion. *Participating states are: Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, and Washington.*

Regardless of how they come to the network, PSPN states share a common goal: dramatically boosting completion for our country's community college students. The PSPN's diversity of states, governance structures, and local histories and contexts is a concrete and visible strength. With JFF's guidance and support, the PSPN is leading the nation in developing and implementing policies that promote community college student success.



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To download related publications and for more about JFF's state policy work, please visit <http://www.jff.org/post-state-policy>

Jobs for the Future works with our partners to design and drive adoption of education and career pathways leading from college readiness to career advancement for those struggling to succeed in today's economy.



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