Higher Education’s Challenges:

Can Systems Make an Impact on College Access and Completion?

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Five-State Policy Review Project

States
• Georgia
• Illinois
• Maryland
• Texas
• Washington

Data Sources
• Documents
• Reports
• Existing data
• Interviews

Products
• Case study reports
• Cross-case analysis

Co-PIs: Joni Finney & Laura Perna
Team: Mike Armijo, Jamey Rorison, Awilda Rodriguez
National Center for Public Policy & Higher Education
What We Found: The State Stories

Illinois • A story of decline

Washington • State leadership vacuum

Maryland • Much accomplished, much at stake

Texas • Hard choices ahead

Georgia • Perpetuating disparity

www.gse.upenn.edu/irhe/srp
Explaining Performance: Emerging Conclusions

- Use of Fiscal Resources
- Efforts to Reduce Stratification
- Planning & Leadership
- Maximize System Capacity
- Movement of Students Into - Thru College
- Performance
Many Students Require Remedial / Developmental Courses

Percent of First-Year Undergraduates Taking Remedial Courses: 2007-08

The Condition of Education 2011.
Most Colleges & Universities Offer Remedial Services

Percent of Degree-Granting Institutions Offering Remedial Services: 2010-2011

- Public 4-year: 76%
- Public 2-year: 99%
- Private 4-year: 61%
- Private 2-year: 71%
- For-profit 4-year: 83%
- For-profit 2-year: 44%

Substantial Number of Students Do Not Complete Bachelor’s Degrees at First Institution

Six-Year Bachelor’s Degree Completion Rates for Students Who First Entered 4-Year Institutions Full-Time in 2002

Substantial Number of Students Do Not Complete Associate’s Degrees at First Institution

Three-Year Associate’s Degree Completion Rates for Students Who First Entered 2-Year Institutions Full-Time in 2002

Alignment Across & Within Sectors

State-Specific Context

Academically prepared?

Transfer without loss of credit?

Efficient movement of students
Efficient movement of students

State-Specific Context

Academically prepared?

Transfer without loss of credit?

Alignment Across & Within Sectors