

February 29, 2016

Dear President Scroggins,



We are writing with a special invitation to you.

Thanks to the hard work of leaders like you and historic investments and initiatives by the Obama Administration, the nation has made significant educational progress over the last seven years. High school dropout rates are at all-time lows; more than a million African-American and Latino students have enrolled in college since 2008; and the graduating class in 2014 was not only the largest to complete higher education in our nation's history, but also, the most diverse. But for all of this progress, challenges still remain to ensure that our low-income students are able to access quality postsecondary opportunities and succeed.

We recognize the hard work that many community colleges, including yours, have undertaken toward this goal, and want to celebrate your leadership at a special conference – Championing Completion: Improving College Outcomes for Pell Students – on March 24, 2016 in Washington, D.C. I invite you to join me, Acting Secretary John King, and a small group of college and university presidents and trustees, for a day that will unite leaders who are driving the public narrative and attaining meaningful results to ensure that more students, especially low-income students, complete an affordable, high-quality degree.

Specifically, this event will focus on:

- Recognizing colleges and universities that have achieved strong results or made major strides in increasing success for low-income students;
- Highlighting promising and proven practices and enabling participants to learn from one another; and
- Issuing a call to action to deepen impact and improve practices on serving low-income students.

We hope to have an opportunity to welcome you to Washington, D.C. on March 24 and appreciate your efforts to be with us. Additionally, we know that trustees play a vital role in helping institutions achieve these goals. We invite you to select one trustee to participate in this event and serve as yet another ambassador for your institution. Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 9 if you will be able to attend this session. More details regarding logistics for the day will follow.

We would also like to share that we have invited Chancellor Howard Gilman of University of California-Irvine to participate in this event. We recognize the shared focus on these important goals between your institutions and hope to welcome you both.

Acting Secretary John King and I look forward to your attendance, as well as your continued partnership with us. Thank you for all you do to help launch bright paths to promising futures for our nation's students.

Sincerely,

Ted Mitchell
Undersecretary of Education

