

ACTION ITEM

Governing Board Agenda

Meeting Date: August 25, 2009

Item Number	Item Title	Responsible Agents
V.B.4	Board Resolution American Graduation Initiative	Dr. Rufus Glasper

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Governing Board adopt the following resolution endorsing the American Graduation Initiative in support of its enactment:

Whereas, community colleges are the largest and fastest growing sector of higher education in the U.S., educating more than 45% of all undergraduate students as well as more than five million additional non-credit students;

Whereas, there is a national consensus that the United States needs to provide greater numbers and percentages of its citizens with a higher education, as a moral, social, and economic imperative;

Whereas, community colleges continue to need greater financial and related support in order to fully realize their potential in helping more Americans obtain a college education and meet related career and personal goals;

Whereas, the Maricopa County Community College District is the largest single provider of postsecondary education in Arizona, offering affordable education to more than 260,000 students year round in credit courses leading to university transfer, as well as special interest non-credit courses;

Whereas, the Maricopa County Community College District is the largest provider of workforce training in Arizona, with an overall 63% of graduated students attaining employment in Arizona within three months;

Whereas, the “America Graduation Initiative” recognizes the centrality of community colleges to America’s well-being, and the need for financial resources to help those institutions;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Governing Board of the Maricopa County Community College District formally endorses the American Graduation Initiative and supports its enactment.

Justification

The American Graduation Initiative is a federal initiative of historic importance to the nation’s community colleges. It represents a potential of \$12 billion in funding over ten years that will enable our colleges to increase the number of graduates completing certificates and degrees, better serve low-income and first generation college students, and enhance training partnerships with businesses and support services for students. It will also fund the modernization and construction of facilities, as well as the permanent funding for Pell Grants for students.

The AACC and the ACCT are encouraging their members to adopt resolutions of support for this legislation and to advocate for its passage with their elected representatives. It is anticipated that the legislation will be acted on by the Congress when they return after their August recess.

Funding	Approvals/Certifications
<p><u>Source:</u></p> <p><u>Account Identification:</u></p>	<p>Chancellor _____</p> <p>Academic & Student Affairs _____</p> <p>Business Services _____</p> <p>Human Resources _____ ITS _____</p> <p>Res Dev & Cmty Relations _____</p> <p>College President _____</p>