



Dear Colleague:

I am delighted to welcome you to the first-ever White House Summit on Community Colleges.

I am proud to say I have been an educator for over 29 years and a community college instructor for the past 17 years. I have always said that community colleges are “one of America’s best-kept secrets” — but today’s Summit shows that is no longer the case. Today, community colleges are the largest and fastest-growing segment of higher education in America. These schools enroll 43 percent of all college students, and are increasingly recognized for their critical role in preparing the American workforce of the future.

Today’s summit is an important next step in our efforts to meet the President’s goal of having the best-educated, most competitive workforce in the world by the end of the year 2020. Over the next decade, nearly eight in ten new jobs will require higher education or workforce training.

This Administration has committed unprecedented investments to support the important work community colleges are doing in preparing for the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. In the coming months, we will announce the first \$500 million of a \$2 billion, four-year investment in community colleges authorized by Congress and signed into law on March 30th. This federal investment will support new state-of-the-art education, training and skills development programs to help Americans re-enter the job market. Since taking office, we have also made historic investments in financial aid, by tripling investments in tax credits for college expenses, increasing the maximum Pell grant by over \$800, and making the financial aid process easier and faster to navigate.

Since becoming Second Lady, I have visited community colleges across the country. At these schools, I have seen innovative programs, committed faculty and administrators, enterprising business partners, and students determined to make a better life for themselves and their families. I hope this summit shines a light on the millions of students, educators, employers, philanthropists, and other stakeholders who are working together to support community colleges and their students.

Thank you for joining me, and I look forward to our discussion.



Dr. Jill Biden