Performance Funding

Presentation to
CAPSEE Conference
The Value of Higher Education – And How to Further Strengthen It

September 18, 2014

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The Aspen College Excellence Program works to advance higher education practices, policies, and leadership that significantly improve student outcomes in four areas:

- **Completion.** Do students earn degrees and other meaningful credentials while in college?
- **Equity.** Do colleges work to ensure equitable outcomes for minority and low-income students, and others often underserved?
- **Labor market.** Do graduates get well-paying jobs?
- **Learning.** Do colleges and their faculty set expectations for what students should learn, measure whether they are doing so, and use that information to improve?
Four Measures of Community College Excellence

- **High absolute performance**
  - Learning outcomes
  - Completion outcomes
  - Labor market outcomes
  - Equity in outcomes

- **Improvement over time**
Lessons from the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence

Themes characterizing the institutions that achieve exceptional outcomes for students:

1. Strong leadership and vision
2. Clear pathways to credentials and other intentional structures to support students
3. Intentional focus on improving teaching and learning
4. Consistent, systematic, and strategic use of data to improve practice
5. Integrated structures that link the college to the broader community for the benefit of students
Role of Performance Funding in Institutional Excellence

• Lessons from Perkins/program accreditation
• Importance of limiting incentives
• Start with the end in mind
• Unintended consequences of narrow definitions
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