Ten Community Colleges Chosen to Join AAC&U Roadmap Project Supported by MetLife Foundation

New Cohort Competitively Selected to Join the Existing Network of Institutions Working on Integrated and Coordinated Strategies to Support Student Success

For Immediate Release

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Washington, DC—January 7, 2013—The Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) announced today the names of ten community colleges chosen in Phase Two of the Developing a Community College Student Roadmap Project. The Roadmap Project is made possible by a grant from MetLife Foundation as part of MetLife Foundation’s commitment to increasing the success of community college students.

Part of its Liberal Education and America’s Promise initiative, AAC&U’s Roadmap Project assists community colleges in creating robust and proactive programs of academic support—tied to expected learning outcomes—that engage students at entrance and teach them, from the outset, how to become active partners in their own quest for educational success. The project seeks to “connect the dots” among the varied student support programs on community college campuses and create roadmaps for success applicable at multiple institutions. These roadmaps will be anchored in a set of expected learning outcomes essential for all students to succeed in life beyond college.

“We are pleased to continue our support for the significant Roadmap Project,” said Dennis White, president and CEO of MetLife Foundation. “This ambitious, collaborative work led by AAC&U is important for the participating colleges, the success of their students, and for all of higher education.”

The Roadmap Project has been working intensively over the past two years with a select group of twelve leadership institutions that are developing institutional models in support of community college student success. Collectively, these leadership institutions are taking what are often isolated and independent student success efforts and create an integrated roadmap to support both student persistence and higher levels of academic achievement.

Funding from MetLife Foundation has enabled AAC&U to expand this initial group of institutions and add another ten community colleges to the project. Through a rigorous application and evaluation process, national leaders chose community colleges with constructive plans designed to improve student learning outcomes and create pathways to student success through evidence-based interventions and programs. They were chosen because they are poised to become national models in supporting and advancing community college student success. They will begin developing and implementing their plans in January, 2013.

The new cohort of institutions includes:

Alamo Colleges (TX)
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Alamo Colleges (TX)
Brookdale Community College (NJ)
Chattanooga State Community College (TN)
College of the Canyons (CA)
Community College of Allegheny County (PA)
Community College of Baltimore County (MD)
Manchester Community College (CT)
Massachusetts Bay Community College (MA)
Monroe Community College (NY)
Wallace State Community College (AL)

“The newly selected Roadmap campuses will join a distinguished group of twelve institutions that are leaders in improving community college student success,” said Tia Brown McNair, Senior Director for Student Success. “One of the greatest benefits of this project has been the knowledge-sharing among a community of educators not only dedicated to asking the difficult questions, but also to implementing change as a result of inquiry and reflection. The Roadmap institutions demonstrate a sustained commitment to completion and quality.”

Each Roadmap institution will work to ensure that its student success programs are integrated with, and reinforced by, its own educational culture. Institutions will develop and coordinate practices and policies that support engaged learning, provide meaningful assessment data about student learning outcomes, and help build a community of support for high achievement.

This initiative also builds in the research sponsored as part of AAC&U’s Liberal Education and America’s Promise initiative, including the research on high-impact educational practices that are proven to increase persistence, completion, and achievement of key learning outcomes especially for students traditionally underrepresented in higher education. For additional information about outcomes and high-impact educational practices, see www.aacu.org/leap.

Institutions in the existing Roadmap Project include:

- Eugenio María de Hostos Community College (CUNY) (New York, New York)
- Gainesville State College (Oakwood, Georgia)
- Georgia Perimeter College (Decatur, Georgia)
- Lane Community College (Eugene, Oregon)
- Miami Dade College (Miami, Florida)
- Middlesex Community College (Bedford, Massachusetts)
- Mt. San Antonio College (Walnut, Los Angeles County, California)
- Northern Virginia Community College (Annandale, Virginia)
- Prince George's Community College (Largo, Maryland)
- Queensborough Community College (CUNY) (New York, New York)
- Salt Lake Community College (Salt Lake City, Utah)
- Tidewater Community College (Norfolk, Virginia)

About AAC&U

AAC&U is the leading national association concerned with the quality, vitality, and public standing of undergraduate liberal education. Its members are committed to extending the advantages of a liberal education to all students, regardless of academic specialization or intended career. Founded in 1915, AAC&U now comprises more than 1,250 member institutions—including accredited public and private colleges, community colleges, and universities of every type and size.

AAC&U functions as a catalyst and facilitator, forging links among presidents, administrators, and faculty members who are engaged in institutional and curricular planning. Its mission is to reinforce the collective commitment to liberal education at both the national and local levels and to help individual institutions keep the quality of student learning at the core of their work as they evolve to meet new economic and social challenges.

Information about AAC&U membership, programs, and publications can be found at www.aacu.org.
About MetLife Foundation

MetLife Foundation is committed to building a secure future for individuals and communities worldwide, through a focus on empowering older adults, preparing young people and building livable communities. In education, it seeks to strengthen public schools through effective teaching and collaborative leadership, and to prepare students for access to and success in higher education, particularly during the crucial first year. The Foundation's grantmaking is informed by findings from the annual MetLife Survey of the American Teacher. More information is available at www.metlife.org.