“College” connotes many different kinds of education & training that provide learning after high school. It includes workforce training, short-term certificates, apprenticeships, and Associate’s or Bachelor’s degree programs. Only 37% of students have the “traditional” college experience of attending a four-year institution immediately after high school.

Employer, state, and student needs won’t be met without policies that support students’ access to, and completion of, education and training. Find CLASP’s solutions to these barriers at http://bit.ly/CLASP-HEA.

States have recognized this need. At least 25 states have set a goal to have 55%+ of their adult population with a credential. Many students need help to become college-ready. 36 million adults have only basic vocabulary knowledge. 24 million working adults have low math/reading skills, and their low wages & skills limit their ability to advance educationally & professionally.

Low-income students need access to college & credentials to prepare them for an environment where:

- Employers set the bar and demand skilled employees
- States have recognized this need
- Many students need help to become college-ready
- Postsecondary education is unaffordable

Low-income students are particularly at-risk of not attempting college, dropping out, and encountering barriers that prevent them from realizing their potential.