

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1677

To encourage partnerships between community colleges and 4-year institutions  
of higher education.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2003

Ms. CANTWELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and  
referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To encourage partnerships between community colleges and  
4-year institutions of higher education.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Community College  
5       Partnership Act of 2003”.

6       **SEC. 2. COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY; COLLEGE**  
7       **PREPARATION PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED.**

8       Subpart 2 of part A of title IV of the Higher Edu-  
9       cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–11) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating section 407E as section  
2 406E; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following:

4 **“CHAPTER 4—COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
5 **OPPORTUNITY**

6 **“SEC. 407A. PURPOSE.**

7 “It is the purpose of this chapter to enhance—

8 “(1) retention of students at community or  
9 technical colleges;

10 “(2) opportunities of students to transfer to 4-  
11 year institutions of higher education and complete  
12 baccalaureate degrees; and

13 “(3) preparation of students for high-quality  
14 and high-demand emerging and established occupa-  
15 tions.

16 **“SEC. 407B. ACTIVITIES.**

17 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this chapter:

18 “(1) COMMUNITY OR TECHNICAL COLLEGE.—

19 The term ‘community or technical college’ means an  
20 institution of higher education—

21 “(A) that admits as regular students, indi-  
22 viduals who are beyond the age of compulsory  
23 school attendance in the State in which the in-  
24 stitution is located and who have the ability to

1 benefit from the training offered by the institu-  
 2 tion;

3 “(B) that predominately does not provide  
 4 an educational program for which it awards a  
 5 baccalaureate degree (or an equivalent degree);

6 “(C) that—

7 “(i) provides an educational program  
 8 of not less than 2 years that is acceptable  
 9 for full credit toward a baccalaureate de-  
 10 gree; or

11 “(ii) offers a 2-year program in engi-  
 12 neering, mathematics, or the physical or  
 13 biological sciences, designed to prepare a  
 14 student to work as a technician or at the  
 15 semiprofessional level in engineering, sci-  
 16 entific, or other technological fields requir-  
 17 ing the understanding and application of  
 18 basic engineering, scientific, or mathe-  
 19 matical principles of knowledge; and

20 “(D) that is accredited by a regional ac-  
 21 crediting agency or association recognized by  
 22 the Secretary under section 496.

23 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
 24 tity’ means—

1           “(A) a statewide governance or coordi-  
2           nating board with jurisdiction over community  
3           or technical colleges and institutions of higher  
4           education that offer a baccalaureate or  
5           postbaccalaureate degree;

6           “(B) a partnership between a statewide  
7           governance or coordinating board with jurisdic-  
8           tion over community or technical colleges and a  
9           statewide governance or coordinating board  
10          with jurisdiction over institutions of higher edu-  
11          cation that offer a baccalaureate or  
12          postbaccalaureate degree; or

13          “(C) a partnership between—

14               “(i) 1 or more community or technical  
15               colleges; and

16               “(ii) 1 or more institutions of higher  
17               education that offer a baccalaureate or  
18               postbaccalaureate degree not awarded by  
19               the institutions described in clause (i) with  
20               which it is partnered.

21          “(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—From the amounts ap-  
22          propriated under section 407C, the Secretary shall award  
23          not less than 6 and not more than 12 grants to eligible  
24          entities.

1       “(c) APPLICATIONS.—Any eligible entity that desires  
2 to obtain a grant under this chapter shall submit to the  
3 Secretary an application at such time, in such manner,  
4 and containing such information or assurances as the Sec-  
5 retary may require.

6       “(d) AWARDING OF GRANTS.—

7           “(1) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall establish  
8 criteria for awarding grants under this chapter.

9           “(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this  
10 chapter, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible  
11 entities that demonstrate the capacity to identify  
12 and address systemic problems related to college re-  
13 tention and the transfer of community or technical  
14 college students to institutions of higher education  
15 that offer a baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate de-  
16 gree.

17       “(e) DURATION.—Grants under this chapter shall be  
18 for a period of 5 or 6 years in duration, which period of  
19 time shall include a planning and implementation phase.

20       “(f) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under this  
21 chapter shall be used for—

22           “(1) the development of policies to expand op-  
23 portunities for community or technical college stu-  
24 dents to earn baccalaureate degrees, including pro-  
25 moting the transfer of academic credits between in-

stitutions and expanding articulation and guaranteed transfer agreements;

“(2) support services to students participating in the program, such as tutoring, mentoring, and academic and personal counseling, as well as any service that facilitates the transition of students from a community or technical college to an institution of higher education;

“(3) academic program enhancements at a community or technical college that result in increasing the quality of the program offered, the connection to high-quality and high-demand emerging and established occupations, and the number of student participants in a dual degree program offered in conjunction with an institution of higher education that offers a baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate degree; and

“(4) programs to identify barriers that inhibit student transfers.

“(g) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this chapter.

**“SEC. 407C. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this chapter \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 and such

- 1 sums as may be necessary for each of the 3 succeeding
- 2 fiscal years.”.

