

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1299

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 23, 2005

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

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 2005”.

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 et seq.) is
10 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) the retention of students at community or
9 technical colleges;

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

13 “(3) the preparation of students for high-qual-
14 ity and high-demand emerging and established occu-
15 pations.

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—

7 “(i) a statewide governance or coordi-
8 nating board with jurisdiction over commu-
9 nity or technical colleges; and

10 “(ii) a statewide governance or coordi-
11 nating board with jurisdiction over institu-
12 tions of higher education that offer a bac-
13 calaureate or postbaccalaureate degree; or

14 “(C) a partnership between—

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

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

22 “(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—From the amounts ap-
23 propriated under section 407C, the Secretary shall award
24 not less than 6 and not more than 12 grants to eligible
25 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.—A grant under this chapter shall
18 be awarded for a period of 5 or 6 years, which period shall
19 include a planning and implementation phase.

20 “(f) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants funds awarded under
21 this 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-

1 stitutions and expanding articulation and guaran-
2 teed transfer agreements;

3 “(2) support services for students participating
4 in the program, such as tutoring, mentoring, and
5 academic and personal counseling, as well as any
6 service that facilitates the transition of students
7 from a community or technical college to an institu-
8 tion of higher education that offers a baccalaureate
9 or postbaccalaureate degree;

10 “(3) academic program enhancements at a com-
11 munity or technical college that result in increas-
12 ing—

13 “(A) the quality of the program offered;

14 “(B) the connection to high-quality and
15 high-demand emerging and established occupa-
16 tions; and

17 “(C) the number of student participants in
18 a dual degree program offered in conjunction
19 with an institution of higher education that of-
20 fers a baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate de-
21 gree; and

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

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

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

5 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
6 this chapter \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2006 and such
7 sums as may be necessary for each of the 3 succeeding
8 fiscal years.”.

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