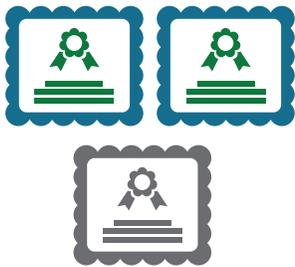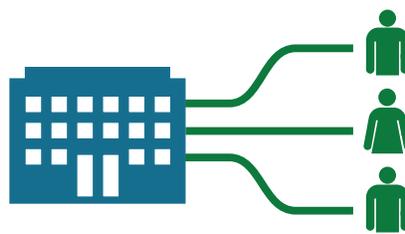# College Completion NETWORK

Expanding the Evidence Base for Postsecondary Success

The **College Completion Network** is evaluating and identifying promising strategies for improving college completion rates. Funded through the Institute of Education Sciences, the network brings together research teams from across the nation to **collaborate**, **share ideas**, **conduct strong research**, **build new knowledge**, and **disseminate their findings** among those in the field. A network lead facilitates and supports these efforts.

Two thirds of the fastest growing occupations **require education and training beyond a high school diploma**.
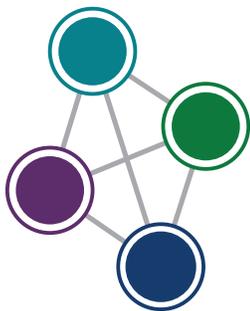

Broad-access colleges and universities **provide many students with pathways to career success**, including a majority of first-time college students.

Only half of college students earn a degree within six years.[1]

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[1] U.S. Department of Education. (n.d.). *College affordability and completion: Ensuring a pathway to opportunity.* Retrieved from https://www.ed.gov/college

The College Completion Network seeks to achieve four primary goals:

- Evaluate and refine **promising interventions** related to college completion.
- Build **new knowledge** about college completion and postsecondary success.
- Provide policymakers and college leaders with **reliable evidence** on promising strategies.
- Strengthen the work and reach of the network research teams through **collaboration**.

Network Research Teams and Studies

The network includes five research teams, each working with either community colleges or public universities on a research project focused on college completion. As part of the network, the teams also participate in collaborative activities, including workgroups focused on meta-analysis and synthesis, partnerships and communication, and research design and methodology.

NETWORK LEAD TEAM

MDRC: Men of Color College Achievement Demonstration Project. MDRC is partnering with the Community College of Baltimore County to evaluate whether a culturally relevant and integrated mentorship and student success program improves the persistence, academic achievement, and degree completion of men of color.
Principal Investigator: Lashawn Richburg-Hayes, PhD

RAND Corporation/American Institutes for Research (AIR): An Experimental Evaluation of Accelerated Pathways Through Developmental Education. RAND and AIR are partnering with Texas community colleges to examine the impact and costs of corequisite remediation—models for placing students who need remedial support into credit-bearing courses.
Principal Investigators: Trey Miller, PhD, and David Gardner, PhD

Stanford University: A Scalable Growth Mindset Intervention to Raise Achievement and Persistence in Community College. Stanford University is partnering with community colleges to evaluate whether an online module describing a growth mindset improves the persistence and success of students in developmental mathematics courses.
Principal Investigators: Gregory Walton, PhD, and Carol Dweck, PhD

Temple University: Affording Degree Completion: A Study of Completion Grants at Accessible Public Universities. Temple University is working with public and land-grant universities to study the short- and medium-term impacts of completion grant programs on semester-to-semester persistence, social-psychological well-being, and on-time graduation.
Principal Investigator: Sara Goldrick-Rab, PhD

University of Virginia: Nudges to the Finish Line: Experimental Interventions to Prevent Late College Departure. The University of Virginia is studying whether low-cost, behaviorally informed text-message nudges that provide personalized information to students about finishing their degrees can improve college completion rates.
Principal Investigators: Benjamin Castleman, EdD, and Eric Bettinger, PhD

Network Lead and Studies

The **American Institutes for Research (AIR)**, in partnership with **Eric Bettinger of Stanford University**, serves as the College Completion Network lead. In addition to facilitating network activities and promoting the research teams' findings, the lead is conducting two research projects to complement the teams' studies:

- Systematic review of the research literature on strategies to increase college completion
- Final synthesis of the key findings from the research teams' studies

Connect with us and sign up for our mailing list!

✉ CCN@air.org   🌐 https://collegecompletionnetwork.org

College Completion NETWORK