

# EDUCATION, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND IMMIGRATION

DMDC

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GREATER DES MOINES  
PARTNERSHIP

In the knowledge-based global marketplace of the 21st Century, a well-educated population is the key to America's innovation, economic development and ability to compete. The United States must have a workforce that is entrepreneurial, innovative, problem-solving, civically competent and equipped with technical skills. Creating a competitive workforce involves "Cradle through Career" strategies to strengthen the emerging workforce pipeline, to retool the incumbent workforce and to access an international talent pool.

## The Partnership Supports:

- Increased federal investment in early childhood education programs coupled with strong accountability systems that measure results, ensure high program standards and expand the number of children served, including the creation of a voluntary federal preschool grant program.
- Implementation of the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) known as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), with a focus on high standards, quality assessments and resources for schools in most need.
- Professional development Title II funds for teachers.
- Funding of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers.
- Education and tools to allow consumers to better understand the individual costs and benefits, and the ability to repay financial obligations related to college.
- Higher education tax incentive programs designed to help make college more affordable and the continuation of tax-based financial assistance to offset post-secondary education expenses in any future tax reform efforts.
- Keeping higher education accessible and affordable by maintaining funding for need-based student aid programs, including Pell Grants and federal student loan programs, increasing federal investments to serve students seeking in-demand, credit and non-credit credentials and retaining and improving higher education tax incentives.
- Simplification of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and related application processes for federal financial aid for college students and simplification of federal student loan repayment options.
- Ending the federal tax on loan forgiveness for student loan borrowers who die or become entirely and permanently disabled.
- Legislation introduced to treat student loan repayment benefits paid by employers the same for tax purposes as the treatment of tuition payment benefits.
- Simplifying the process for educational institutions to provide distance education opportunities for students in other states.
- Expanding post-secondary opportunities through the use of tax-exempt bonds for student assistance programs, allowing use of such means to fund student loan refinancing options and additional regulatory means of supporting such state-based efforts.
- Strengthening of federal financial aid programs and encouraging innovations of systems that work to improve college access, college affordability and college completion.



- Increasing opportunities for internships for students enrolled in post-secondary curriculum.
- Strengthening international programs, such as the Higher Education Act Title VI and the Fulbright-Hays Programs.
- Providing prospective higher education consumers with a sufficient range of qualitative and quantitative information to allow individuals to find the “best-fit” institutions as opposed to a single rating metric.
- Enhancing STEM competitiveness by implementing the America Competes Act, funding the Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program, the STEM Talent Expansion Program and other STEM-focused policies.
- Investing in the workforce in various ways, including:
  - a. Continued funding of the Workforce, Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
  - b. Adequate federal funding for adult education and English as a second language in the FY 2018 budget
  - c. Passing the Jumpstart Our Business Startups (JOBS) Act
  - d. Passing the Community College to Career Fund Act
  - e. Passing legislation redirecting the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)
  - f. Reauthorizing the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
  - g. Passing legislation to lift current restrictions on TANF skills training
  - h. Maintaining Adult Basic Education (ABE) funding to help upskill Iowa workers
  - i. Funding Wagner/Peyser Employment Service (ES) activities under Title III of WIOA at current levels
- The Home Base Iowa Initiative.
- Immigration reform that provides for increasing national security and control of our nation’s borders, while creating an effective and streamlined future flow program and a pathway to legal status for unauthorized workers currently in the United States. This includes expansion of the H-1B program for highly-skilled workers.