Urban Higher Education Ecosystem

September 6th, 2018
- National private foundation
- Goal: Expanding opportunities in America’s cities
- $3.6 billion endowment
- Funded through grants and social investments
- Six program areas and two practices
Education

Promotes postsecondary access and success for low-income, first-generation and underrepresented students living in cities in the United States and South Africa.
Why Postsecondary Education Focus?

▪ College graduates enjoy a $1 million lifetime earnings premium.
▪ By 2020, 60% of all jobs will require education beyond high school.
▪ A college degree remains the “silver bullet” to ending poverty for individuals and families.
▪ College graduates more likely to vote, be engaged with the community, and less likely to be incarcerated.
▪ Attainment gaps for low-income and people of color persist, making increasing education levels both an economic and social justice imperative.
Low-Income College Enrollment on the Rise

Annual Percent of Recent High School Graduates Enrolled in College by Income

*3-year rolling averages

(source: NCES)
National Educational Attainment Rising Steadily

- National Attainment Rate

- 2008: 37.9%
- 2009: 38.1%
- 2010: 38.3%
- 2011: 38.7%
- 2012: 39.4%
- 2013: 40.0%
- 2014: 45.3% *
- 2015: 45.8%
- 2016: 46.9%

*(source: Stronger Nation) *Increase in 2014 partially due to workforce-relevant certificates included in the total of postsecondary credentials
National Attainment Gaps: Income / Wealth

More Students, and Yet...
For the poorest wealth group, college attendance has risen, but college graduation has not.

- Share of wealth group attending college
- Share graduating

Lowest wealth group
- Attending college: 11.3%
- Graduating: 11.8%

Middle wealth group
- Attending college: 25.7%
- Graduating: 32.5%

Highest wealth group
- Attending college: 46.0%
- Graduating: 60.1%

(source: NYT)
National Attainment Gaps: Race/Ethnicity

*Values above do not include postsecondary certificates, only achievement of associate degree or higher.

(source: Lumina: Stronger Nation)
Too many adults have “some college, no degree”

35 million Americans

Approximate number of 25 years old and over with some college, no degree.

This equates to almost one in five adults.
Aligning and Strengthening Urban Higher Education Ecosystems
Change is possible… one student at a time.
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Early Takeaways from Urban Ecosystem Investments

- Commitment levels to college access and success efforts range widely across and within cities.
- No city so far has a fully aligned ecosystem.
- Incentivizing collaboration is not easy.
- Colleges/institutions need to lead.
- Local funders have a role to play to make this sustainable.