



NEWS RELEASE

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ISKME Relaunches CompletionMatters.org with Expanded Content and Services

Site Supports Postsecondary Success with Original and Curated Content, Personalization Tools, and Video Channel

Half Moon Bay, Calif. – Nov. 9, 2011 – The Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education (ISKME) today relaunched the CompletionMatters.org website that provides information, tools, and other resources on how to best enable students and the institutions that serve them to increase the number of students who earn postsecondary certificates and degrees.

Building on their earlier success, CompletionMatters.org, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, features a growing number of new resources, content, and services, with over 1,000 individual public resources related to completion curated by community members and ISKME. This includes over 150 blog posts and new videos developed by ISKME and a community of practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and students. Serving faculty, staff, campus leaders, students and student-serving groups, the site enables the completion community to share information and knowledge focused on raising completion rates nationwide.

Special features of the new site include:

- **Weekly content releases** provide the latest news and analysis of community trends and dialogue. **Completion Matters Video Channel** incorporates themed categories and interactive features.
- **Curated resources and content in six topic areas** related to completion. *(See box on page 2).*
- **Student-developed content**, created in partnership with Mobilize.org and others, which incorporates blog posts recounting students' personal experiences with the challenges of getting into and completing college.
- **Easily personalized content.** The site includes resource bundles that enable users to create their own curated lists of articles and videos around a specific topic or theme. They can share their favorite resources about college completion through themed lists, much like music playlists, that other users can view, learn from and link to on social media sites.

"This site allows students and those responsible for their success to access up-to-date research and personal stories about a topic that directly impacts them: college completion," said Stan Jones, president of Complete College America. "Through the resources, narratives and online community, students gain mentoring and support for their personal and professional goals."

"Over time, the site will become a comprehensive, publicly accessible commons about postsecondary completion, featuring models of success and best practices," says Lisa Petrides, president and founder of ISKME.

"Completing a postsecondary credential — whether it's a bachelor's degree, associate degree, apprenticeship, or certificate — is critical for success in today's economy," said Ira Fuchs, EDUCAUSE, executive Director, Next Generation Learning Challenges, which focuses on accelerating the adoption of

technology-enabled solutions to improve learning and student outcomes in the U.S. “A comprehensive repository of resources, such as this,” Fuchs said, “will be of significant value to all those who are committed to improving college readiness and completion and will facilitate knowledge sharing across the

CompletionMatters.org is divided into six focus areas:

- **K-20 to Career:** Explore inventive approaches to the challenges of K-20 curriculum alignment, transfer and articulation, and workforce preparation
- **Student Supports:** Find out about the latest programs and services that impact retention and college completion.
- **Closing the Gap:** New approaches and practices address equity and achievement by making use of technological advances in teaching and learning.
- **Measuring Success:** Follow the higher education community's data and decision making process to better assess student progress and achievement.
- **Changing Policy:** Community college leaders and others work to reform federal, state, local, and institutional policies that affect higher education, including funding policies, transfer and articulation, equity and access, and completion rates.
- **Developmental Education:** Colleges are transforming developmental education with resourceful approaches that accelerate student advancement and embed basic skills acquisition in credit-bearing and discipline-specific courses.

community.”

The new site is now live at <http://www.completionmatters.org/>. To sign up for the Completion Matters e-newsletter, go to <http://bit.ly/sjzpmw>. Follow us on Twitter @completmatters.

To gather more insights about what works for the completion community, ISKME will host a call for students, educators, and policy makers to submit short videos on college completion in spring 2012.

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The Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education (www.iskme.org), located in Half Moon Bay, Calif., is a global leader in research and practice around data use, open education, and social learning in the education sector. An independent, non-profit organization established in 2002, ISKME is well-known for its OER Commons initiative (www.oercommons.org), as well as its award winning international research on knowledge management in the education sector.