

**Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education  
Ann Coles' Presentation for December 9, 2005**

**Non Academic Issues related to Improving College Access for Underserved Students**

Context

- Large number of college qualified students who do not go to college
  - Comparison of high-income and low-income students (Empty Promises)
  - High achieving low-income students compared to low-achieving high income students
- Large numbers of potentially college-qualified who don't go to college
  - NCHEMS Pipeline data
  - WICHE Knocking at the College Door data

Non-Academic Barriers Underserved Students Face

- Look at barriers in terms of what the research says about college-going indicators
- Personal motivation and family support
- Expectations
- Social support
- Affordability and financial aid
  - % of family income required to pay for public and private colleges – comparison of lower income with upper income families (College Board Trends report, Measuring Up)
  - Recent shifts in who gets institutional and state aid from lower income to higher income students (Empty Promises, College Board Trends report)
  - Lack of information among minority families (Sallie Mae Fund, Tomas Rivera Institute)
  - Impact of school counselor advice on perceptions of price and financial aid - findings from research literature review by Patricia McDonough, UCLA
  - Families' understanding of college prices and financial aid – findings from research literature review by Laura Perna, U. Penn

Strategies for Overcoming Barriers

- What the research says
- On-the-ground examples drawn from what TERI and our partners in Boston are doing – school-based and community based programs
- Other examples profiled on the Pathways to College Network web site

Recommendations

1. Importance of partnerships federal, state, institutional (college and universities), and private sector
2. Need for higher ed institutions to play much more active role/take responsibility for working collaboratively with K-12 and community based college access initiatives to help students get ready for college