

and automatically retrieve needed tax information when filling out the FAFSA. More than six million students and parents took advantage of the ability to electronically retrieve their income information from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) when completing their 2014-2015 FAFSA, an innovation that improves both speed and accuracy.

Building on this progress, starting in calendar year 2016, students and families will be able to fill out the FAFSA three months earlier—in October—so they can understand the financial resources available for them as they are applying to college. Families filling out the FAFSA in October 2016 will be able to fill it out immediately by electronically retrieving information from their 2015 tax returns. Families and students will no longer have to wait until the next year's tax season to finalize their FAFSAs and to learn about their financial aid. The Administration is working with college financial aid officers and State aid programs to ensure that they align their financial aid awards with the new Federal schedule so students have as much information as possible early in their college search process. These changes—coupled with further FAFSA simplification proposals in the Budget—could encourage hundreds of thousands of additional students to apply for and claim the aid they are eligible for.

Making Two Years of Community College Free for Responsible Students. The Budget ensures all Americans have the opportunity to pursue and succeed in higher education, with a goal of making at least two years of college as universal as high school. America's College Promise (ACP) would provide funding to support community colleges, as well as four-year Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority-Serving Institutions, that undertake a set of reforms to improve the quality of their programs of study. The funding provided under ACP will offset tuition—fully in community colleges—before the application of Pell grants or student loans. This would allow students who qualify for Pell grants to use financial aid to cov-

er additional costs, such as academic supplies and living expenses.

Since the President announced his plan, Tennessee's free community college program, Tennessee Promise, has helped increase enrollment in State colleges by over 4,000 students. Ten additional States and communities have created programs to provide free community college, including legislation enacted in Oregon and Minnesota, and new initiatives in Rhode Island, Richmond and Scotland Counties in North Carolina, and at Sinclair Community College (OH), Harper College (IL), Community College of Philadelphia (PA), Milwaukee Area Technical College (WI), Madison Area Technical College (WI), and Ivy Tech Community College (IN). Furthermore, legislation creating free community college has been introduced at the State level in at least 12 States.

There is Federal momentum as well. Senator Baldwin (WI) and Representative Scott (VA) have proposed the America's College Promise Act of 2015.

Building Effective Education and Training in High-Demand Fields. In addition to America's College Promise, the Budget includes \$75 million for a complementary tuition-free investment in the American Technical Training Fund (ATTF). The ATTF would provide competitive grants to support the development, operation, and expansion of innovative, evidence-based, tuition-free job training programs in high-demand fields such as manufacturing, health care, and IT.

Promoting Completion through Pell Grants. The Budget continues the President's commitment to college affordability by ensuring that Pell Grants keep pace with inflation and by investing in new efforts that promote college completion. Data show that degree completion is critical to ensuring that the time and money invested in college pays off for students.

To promote completion, the Budget puts forward three important Pell Grant policies.