



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Community College of the District of Columbia Receives Next Generation Learning Challenge Grant

April 14, 2011 – The Community College of the District of Columbia (CCDC) has been awarded \$750,000 as part of a consortium grant Next Generation Learning Challenges (NGLC), a new initiative that supports using innovative technology to improve college completion, particularly for low-income young adults. The initiative has awarded a combined total of \$11 million to 29 organizations developing promising education technology solutions.

Selected from a field of more than 600 pre-proposals and 50 finalists, the CCDC is partnering with Portland State University (using Learner Web), South Texas College and St. Paul College (using an Open Source Blended Learning Solutions Partnership for Retaining and Graduating Gatekeeper Course and Developmental Learners by Eliminating Traditional Developmental Writing Courses) for this grant.

The CCDC and Learner Web are leading a project to scale alternative methods to developmental courses by supporting students in blended learning environments. The grant will also address the college readiness of high school students in the District of Columbia and at public high schools in South Texas by infusing college learning competencies into the high schools to support reading, math and writing skills consistent with college expectations for these students as measured by the Accuplacer. According to Dr. Jonathan Gueverra, CEO of the CCDC, “this grant recognizes the work already underway at the CCDC and it provides resources to support our commitment to reducing and eliminating the learning barriers associated with poor college readiness and the need for developmental education.”

NGLC focuses on identifying and scaling technology-enabled approaches to dramatically improve college readiness and completion by addressing a continuum of interrelated issues spanning secondary and postsecondary education from grades 6 through college. NGLC is led by EDUCAUSE in partnership with The League for Innovation in the Community College, the International Association of K-12 Online Learning, and the Council of Chief State School Officers. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation helped design the Next Generation Learning Challenges, and fund the initiative. In addition to funding, NGLC is gathering evidence about effective practices, and working to develop a community dedicated to these persistent challenges.

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