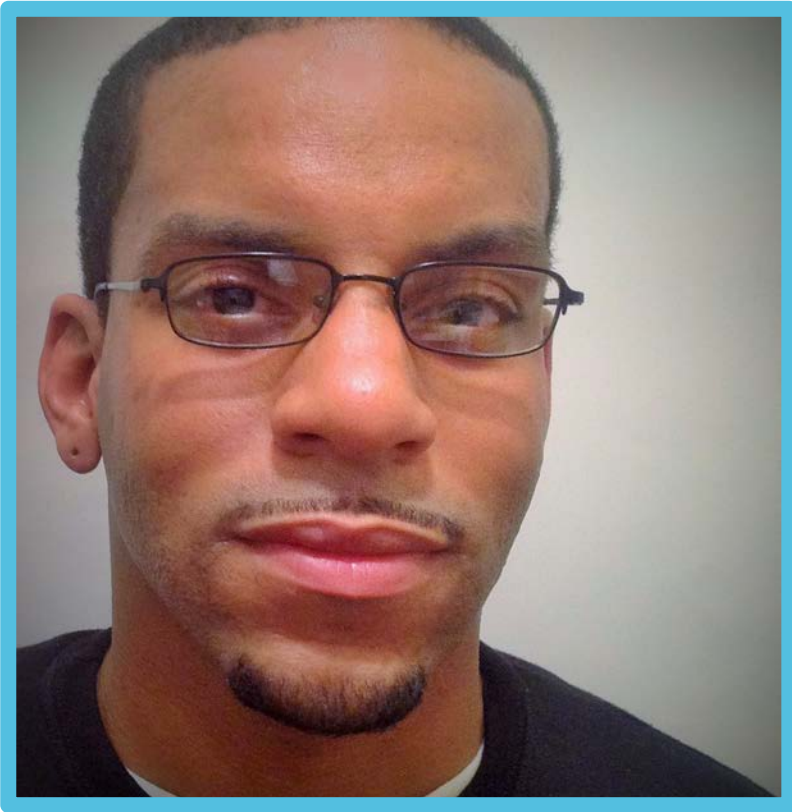


# Lessons from the Learner Voice about the Student Success Movement

By: Nathaniel Simpson

ACCELERATING EQUITABLE SUCCESS



- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
  - Postsecondary Success and Early Learning/Pathways Strategy Teams
  - Senior Program Officer
- Curious educational practitioner focused on students' getting what they deserve from education
- Borrows effective practices from different sectors to avoid duplicating learned lessons



# Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Education Pathways



# Session Objectives

- 1** Share lessons learned from opinion poll research about learners perceptions about the value of education in the US.
- 2** Inform the way the learner voice impacted the student success movement.
- 3** Tips on the ways to incorporate it for ongoing efforts based upon lessons learned from the philanthropy sector.

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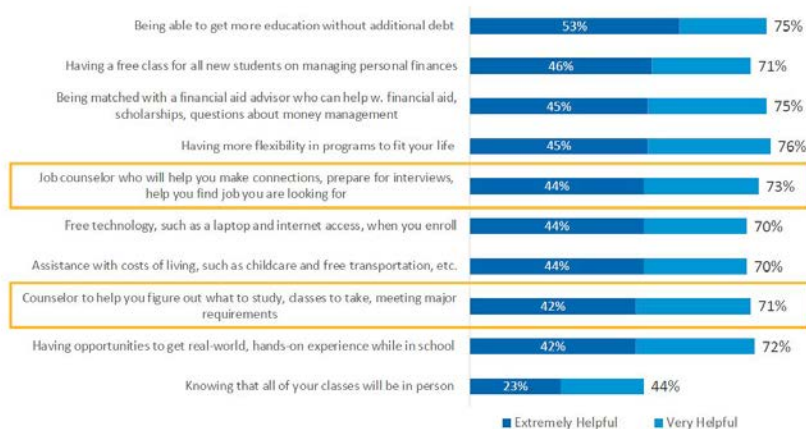
# Learners Seem to Be Looking for More Support Beyond Financial Aid

Opinion poll conducted in 2022 showed many different important factors for the reasons students seemed to be missing from continuing their education beyond high school. A clear finding showed a shift with learners where financial aid is a given, and many seem to be looking for more than that type of support. Thus, quality holistic support seems to be the new minimum standard for learners looking to attain ongoing education beyond HS.

In addition to helping with debt, many of the solutions to help with college receive positive reactions



Helpful to get/complete degree

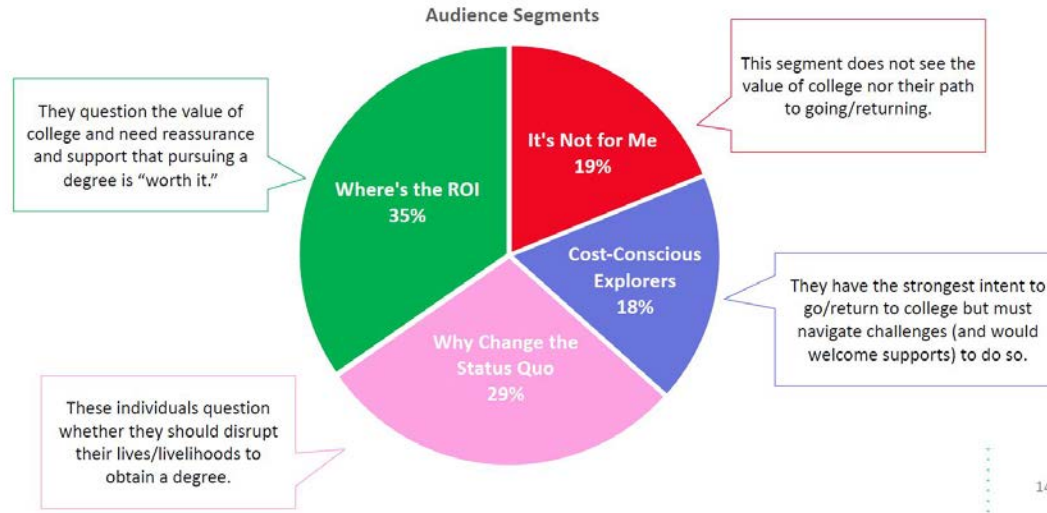


<https://edgeresearch.com/exploring-the-exodus-from-higher-education/>

# Learners Have Become Better Consumers

We're at the tipping point for post high school education exposure. Learners have obtained a lot of information on what it means to improve their education to achieve their future goals. Thus, we can see from this research learners know education can improve their lives but want to make sure the education system will partner with them to achieve their goals.

Segmentation Analysis, based on key psychographic variables, reveals targets for supports and intervention



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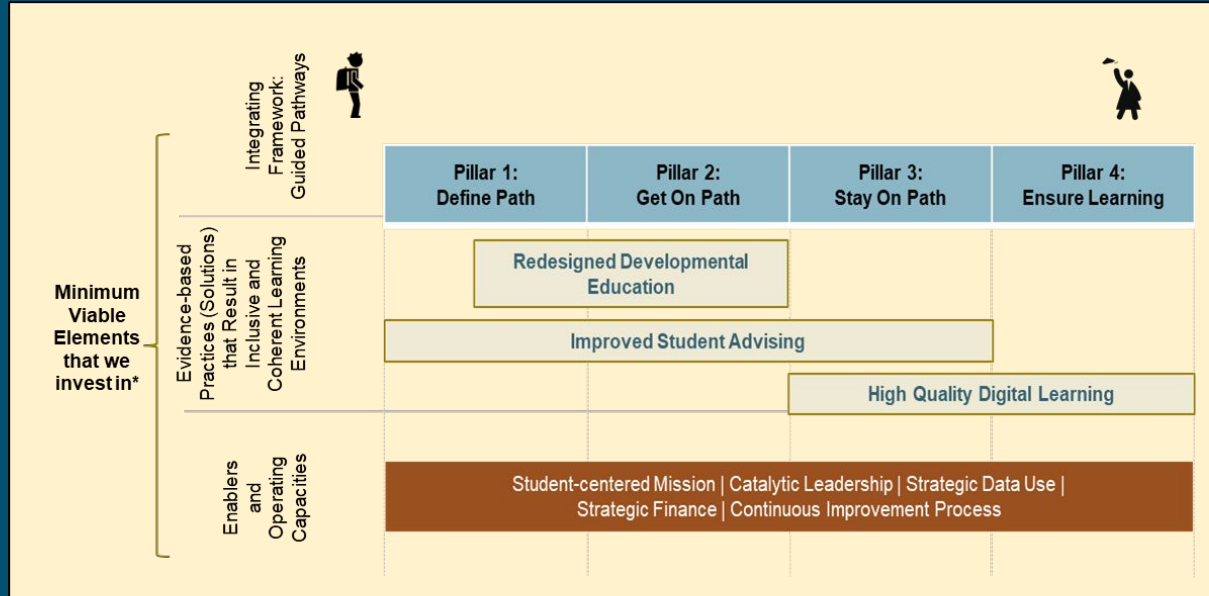
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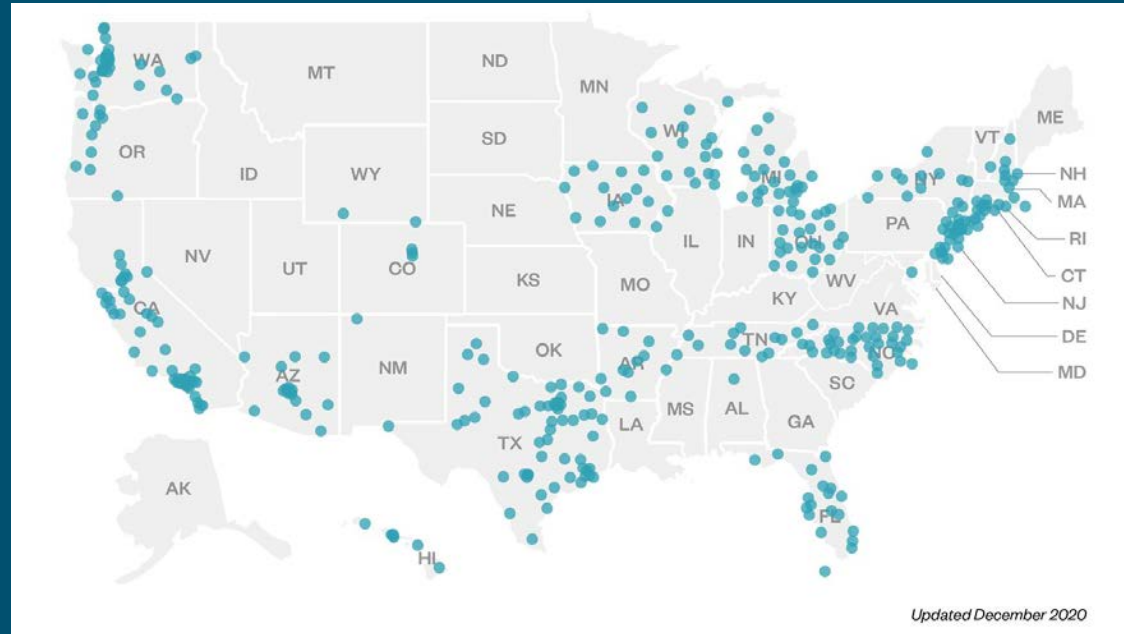
# We learned from learners they desire a clear path from start to finish that has intention

Guided Pathways which is a model getting used by many community colleges across the US seems to be a reasonable answer for this desire. The model encourages not only higher education institutions to organize their redesign efforts around what students experience but the way many various regional stakeholders can become co-partners in a coherent designed experience. Ultimately, learners can have a view into what the end of their journey will look like when they start.



# We learned from learners they desire a clear path from start to finish that has intention

There are ~400 community colleges across the country have implemented this model.



# Students know the difference between Surviving and Thriving

Research study conducted across the country in 2018-2019 revealed learners have a reasonable expectation to what they're looking for from their education. More often than not, learners are pretty strong at setting goals for themselves. Thus, many learners have a POV of the way they're going to achieve their goals already.



<https://www.equitablefutures.org/research/striving-to-thriving/>

# Students know the difference between Surviving and Thriving

Surviving, Striving, and Thriving was an emergent framework developed from the research. The framework helps understanding the emotional and aspirational states young people pass through, and expect to pass through, as they pursue their career and life goals. These states are not fixed points but rather a continuum where each state can flow into the next, as young people learn personally or indirectly about occupational options, make occupational choices, and experience progress and setbacks in their occupational journeys.

**GOOD LIFE**

## Core Concept #3: Surviving, Striving and Thriving

**FRAMEWORK**

<p><b>SURVIVING</b></p> 	<p><b>STRIVING</b></p> 	<p><b>THRIVING</b></p> 
<p>They are living paycheck to paycheck—or have no job—and they feel that they are struggling to make ends meet.</p>	<p>They feel that they have goals and are following steps that will help them advance toward <i>thriving</i>.</p>	<p>They feel that they have achieved their goals and attained their personal version of a good life.</p>

equitable futures

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<https://www.equitablefutures.org/research/striving-to-thriving/>

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# Tips on the ways to incorporate it for ongoing efforts based upon lessons learned from the philanthropy sector

## 1. Know Your Data and Learners

- a. Setting up focus groups for learners
- b. Work with organizations that span across education segments

## 2. Acknowledge learners agency to achieve their interests

- a. Update any messaging to affirming learners knowledge
- b. Showcase supports that you tested and know actually work

## 3. Take action to see improvements for the learners

- a. Encourage rapid prototyping within your organization, institution, school, district
- b. Normalize making improvements will happen all the time

# Seamless Pathways to Degrees & Careers



More than ever, K-12, higher education institutions, and employers must work together to create connected opportunities that help young people transition between high school, a postsecondary degree, and future economic opportunity.



<https://www.accelerate-ed.org/>





# Thank you, contact info, and questions



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- What is “Guided Pathways”
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- Where are the Students?
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ILLINOIS EDUCATION AND CAREER  
**SUCCESS NETWORK**





# Appendix

# Postsecondary Success

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April 10, 2023



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# Our Vision



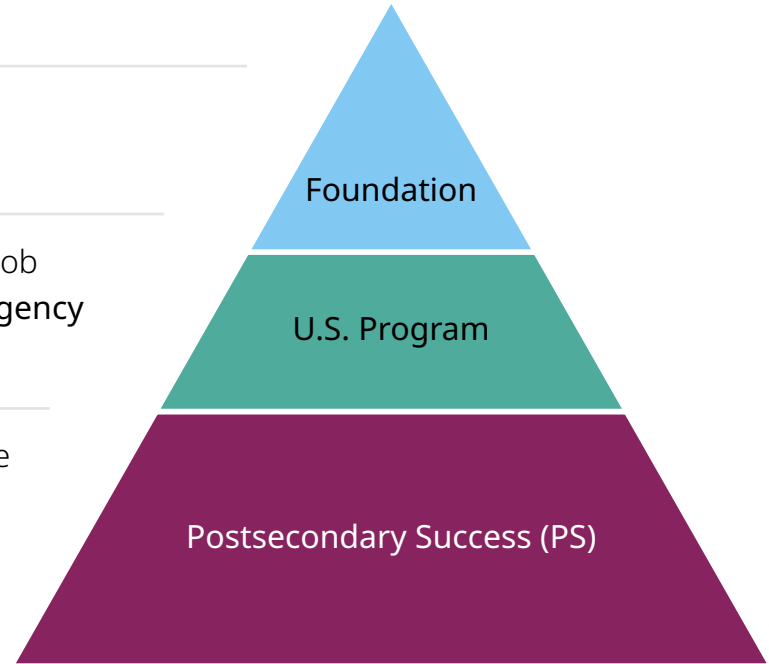
Every person deserves the chance to live a **healthy, productive life**



All people navigating U.S. education systems and job markets can develop the **knowledge, skills, and agency** needed to thrive in their communities



Many more of today's college students can achieve a **credential with equitable value**; race, ethnicity, and income are no longer predictors of achieving those credentials



# A Better Living. A Better Life.

Today's college students have the aspiration and the drive for a better living and a better life.

And there is more demand than ever for their talent.



# What We Do

We focus on **four things** to boost student success, focusing on Black, Latino, and Indigenous students and students from low-income backgrounds ...



# What We Do



**Policy:** Making opportunity more affordable, accessible, and equitable



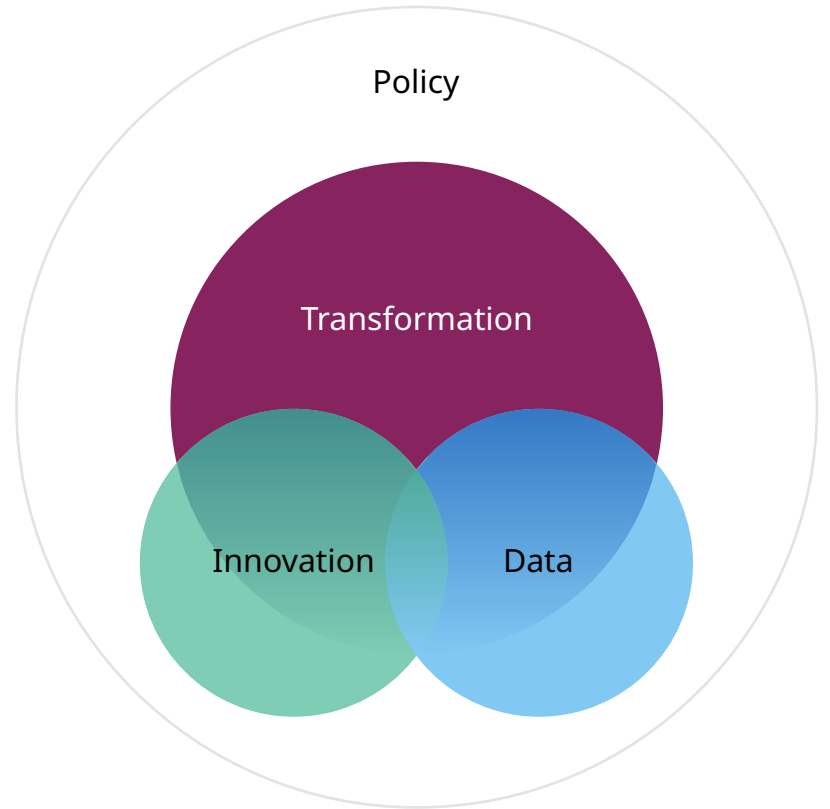
**Transformation:** Making policies and practices more student centered



**Innovation:** Creating clearer paths to certificates and degrees



**Data/Information:** Understanding what works and what could work better







What We Do:

# Innovation

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Creating clearer paths to certificates and degrees through:

- Improving and expanding digital teaching and learning  
“Best in class” gateway courses
- Redesigning developmental education  
Co-requisite courses
- Strengthening holistic student support, especially advising  
Integrated planning and advising systems



What We Do:

# Data and Information

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Understanding what works and what could work better by:

- **Promoting equitable value through better data**  
Postsecondary Value Commission
- **Strengthening data systems**  
Postsecondary Data Partnership
- **Building communities of practice for better data use**  
Value Data Collaborative



What We Do:

# Policy

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Making opportunity more affordable, more accessible and more equitable by focusing on:

- **Finance:** Focusing resources on the students and institutions facing the greatest financial challenges  
Simplifying FAFSA; changing state funding formulas for institutions
- **Data:** Gathering, reporting, and using key outcome data covering all students in all institutions  
Data system reform (student unit record data system)
- **Pathways:** Providing seamless student transitions into postsecondary education and the workforce  
Dual-credit courses and programs



What We Do:

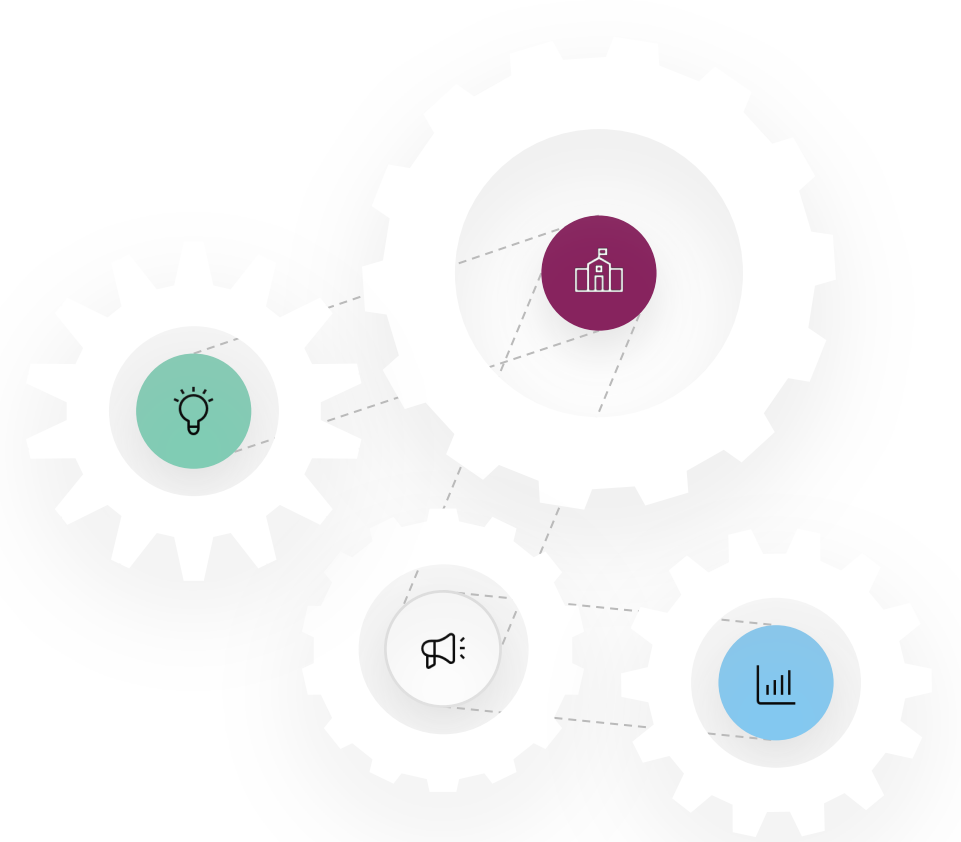
# Transformation

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Making policies and practices more student-centered by:

- Integrating **evidence-based practices** to create inclusive and coherent learning environments; and
- Prioritizing a **student-centered mission, committed and visionary leadership, strategic data use, and mission-aligned finance** in a robust continuous improvement process.

*Transformation is where  
innovation, data and information,  
and policy  
come together to promote – and  
deliver – equitable  
student success.*

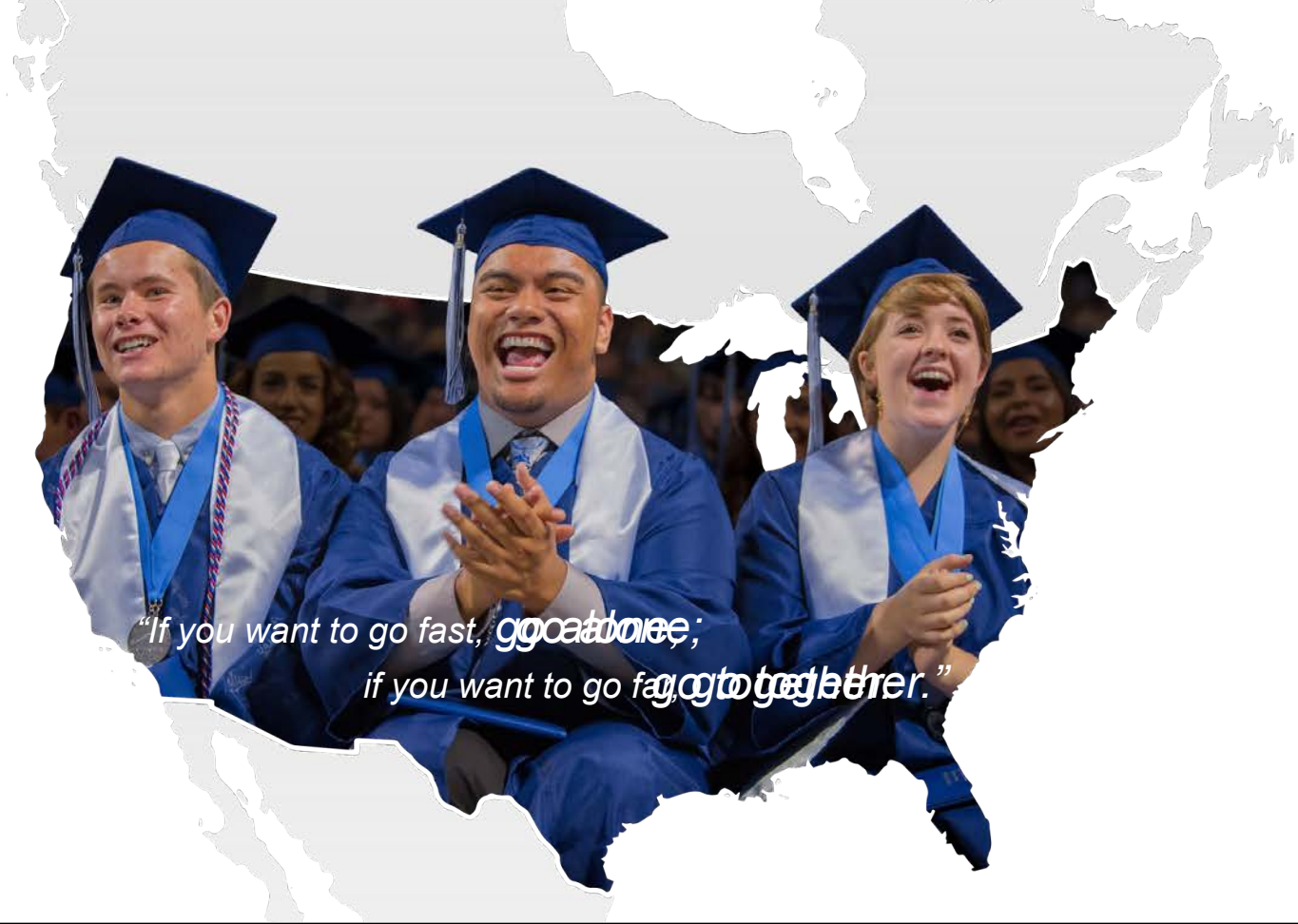




# Success Through Collaboration

Working together, we can eliminate race, ethnicity, and income as predictors of educational success.





*"If you want to go fast, go alone;  
if you want to go far, go together."*



# Connect with us



Sign up for our newsletter:  
[usprogram.gatesfoundation.org](https://usprogram.gatesfoundation.org)



Twitter: @GatesUS



LinkedIn: /loremipsum



Gf

*Thank You*