

## **Why Should We Commit to Learning For All?**

**We must prepare students for their future, not our past.**

- In 1973, only 28% of jobs required postsecondary education.
- By 2020, 63% of jobs will required postsecondary education.
- In 1970, 74% of the middle class was high school graduates and dropouts.
- In 2007, only 23% of the middle class was high school graduates, and only 8% were dropouts.
- Between 1970 and 2007, the percentage of upper class workers with postsecondary education and training increased from 44% to 81%.

(Center on Education and the Workforce, 2010 and 2013)

**Those who have not learned how to learn will be left behind.**

- High school graduates and dropouts will find themselves largely left behind in the American economy.
- By 2018 nine out of ten workers with a high school education or less will be limited to three occupation clusters - food and personal services, sales and office supports, or blue collar jobs - that either pay low wages or are in decline.
- In the next five years, sixty million Americans are at risk of being locked out of the middle class, toiling in low-wage jobs that require a high school education or less as employer demand for workers with postsecondary degrees and training continue to surge.
- In the 20th century, illiterates were those who could not read.
- In the 21st century, illiterates will be those who have not learned how to learn and continue their learning beyond the k-12 system.

(Center on Education and the Workforce, 2010)

**Access to the American Dream as the land of opportunity and social mobility**

- A child born in the bottom 20% of family incomes is ten times more likely to stay there than a child in the top 20% is of falling to the bottom 20%.
- A child born in the top 20% of family incomes is five times more likely to stay there than a child in the lower 20% is to rise to the top 20%.
- Education is the most powerful tool for helping students of poverty rise.
- More than 80% of children in the top 20% of family incomes earn a bachelor's degree.

(Greenstone, et al., 2013)

- A child born to a high school dropout has a one in seven chance of earning a bachelor's degree (Esdall, 2012)

## **We are falling behind the rest of the world.**

- The educational system that served our nation well in the 20th century is not serving us well in the 21st century.
- The U.S. dropped from first in the world percentage of high school graduates to 22nd out of 27 advanced economies (The Broad Foundation, 2013).
- The U.S. dropped from first in the world in the percentage of young (25-34) workers with college degrees to second in 1995, and to 14th in 2012 (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2013).
- For the first time in American history, we have a higher percentage of 5-65 year-olds with college degrees than 25-35 year-olds. (The College Board, 2008).

## **Our current system isn't working.**

- Potential dropouts can be predicted as early as first grade and identified with accuracy by third grade (Sparks, American Psychological Association, 2013).
- More than one-third of students entering college require remedial courses (Strong American Schools 2008).
- 34% of students who enter college, drop out within the first year (ACT Retention/Completion Summary, 2012).
- 36% who enter a four year public college earn a bachelor's degree within 5 years (ACT Retention/Completion Summary, 2012).
- Only 29% of those who pursue a two-year degree earn it within three years (ACT Retention/Completion Summary, 2012).

## **There are serious implications for those who fail.**

- Students who fail school are three times more likely to be unemployed (Breslow, 2012)
- These students are more likely to live in poverty (i.e., earn an annual salary of \$20,241 or less) (Breslow, 2012)
- Students who fail school will earn 33 cents for every dollar a college graduate earns, which is the largest discrepancy of all of the major economies in the world (U.S. Census Bureau/Office of Economic Cooperation and Development, 2006).
- These students are more prone to ill health (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2011).
- Female dropouts will live an average of 10.5 fewer years than females who graduate from high school. Male dropouts will live an average of thirteen fewer years than males who graduate from high school. And the gap for both sexes is widening (Tavernise, 2012)
- High school dropouts are sixty-three times more likely to be incarcerated (Breslow, 2012)
- On average, each high school dropout costs taxpayers \$292,000 over his or her lifetime (Breslow, 2012).