



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 24, 2013

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Great Lakes Aims to Boost College Completion Rates with New Grant Opportunity

College Success Grants Available to Programs Helping Students Graduate

Madison, Wis. – More students are entering college than ever before, but many of these students—particularly those from traditionally underserved backgrounds—face unique obstacles that prevent them from completing their studies. As a result, college completion rates have not increased at the same rate as college enrollment. To help more students access the support they need to graduate, [Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation](#) is offering *College Success* grants of up to \$300,000 each.

“With the *College Success* grants, we build on our commitment to support programs that are helping more students succeed in higher education,” said Richard D. George, Great Lakes’ President and Chief Executive Officer. “While our earlier *College Ready* grants focused on preparing students for academic success in college, we know that arriving on campus academically prepared is often not enough. Many students need additional support to stay in college and graduate—particularly students from low-income backgrounds, students of color, and those who are the first in their family to attend college. Our *College Success* grants will recognize and reward programs delivering that extra support, for the students who need it most.”

College students who develop a connection with their peers, faculty, and staff are more likely to stay in college until they graduate. Great Lakes’ *College Success* grants are intended to support programs that connect students of similar backgrounds who are attending two-year, four-year, or technical colleges—and are all working toward the common goal of college completion. These grants will help students develop those connections through specialized services such as mentoring, proactive advising, development of learning communities, and academic tutoring.

Colleges and community-based organizations located in Iowa, Minnesota, or Wisconsin are eligible to apply for individual grants of up to \$300,000 each for the 2013-2014 academic year. Applications can be found at [mygreatlakes.org/community](#) and are due March 14, 2013.

For more information on Great Lakes’ *College Success* grant opportunity and other Community Investments initiatives, visit [mygreatlakes.org/community](#) or contact Amy Kerwin at akerwin@glhec.org or 608-246-1785.

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About Great Lakes and Community Investments

Knowing that education has the power to change lives for the better, Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates helps millions of students pay for college and manage their student loans. Through Community Investments, Great Lakes funds programs that foster workforce development by increasing the number of disadvantaged students who start and complete a postsecondary degree or certificate. Since 2006, Great Lakes has committed more than \$76 million in funding to programs that share these goals. For additional information, visit [mygreatlakes.org/community](#).