

## Ten States Receive Grants to Help Prepare Students for College

*Core to College program fosters collaboration among K-12 and higher education institutions*

[Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors](#) has awarded grants to ten states to help their K-12 and postsecondary education systems align to the Common Core State Standards and assessments that will measure them.

The grant program, called **Core to College: Preparing Students for College Readiness and Success**, aims to foster long-term collaborations between state higher education and K-12 entities that will improve student achievement and college readiness and ultimately, increased rates of enrollment and graduation. One key to this success is using the Common Core State Standards and assessments to establish a statewide common definition of college readiness to signal a student's preparedness for credit-bearing college courses. Having such a baseline will also inform processes to transition students successfully between high school and higher education environments.

Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oregon and Washington will each receive \$200,000 per year for three years, pending annual reviews of progress against goals. These states were selected based on geographic diversity, assessment consortia membership and demonstrated capacity to undertake this work, including existing collaborations and project plans aligned with the goals of **Core to College**. Grant funds may be used to expand or create programs but all states are required to establish a position of Alignment Director/Coordinator who will be responsible for implementation of a state's plans.

The intent is that these ten states will serve as models for other states, showing how to create connections among educational entities that will strongly support the interest of student success. It is also expected that each state will align its work with implementation plans for the Common Core State Standards and either the PARCC or SMARTER Balanced assessments.

Funding for Core to College is provided by the [Lumina Foundation](#), the [William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#) and the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#). The partners developed Core to College with the assistance of [Education First Consulting](#), which will provide continuing project management. [Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors](#), the program's fiscal sponsor, is responsible for grant decisions and all aspects of ongoing grant administration.

For more information on Core to College, please click [here](#).