The Voluntary Framework of Accountability
for community colleges, by community colleges
WHAT IS THE VFA?

The Voluntary Framework of Accountability is the first national system of accountability specifically FOR and BY community colleges.
EXISTING MEASUREMENTS

» Plethora of reporting and accountability models but...existing measurements are limited

» Graduation rate not the right tool for measuring community college success

» Existing measures do not capture value of full range of community college offerings, like noncredit courses or CTE

» Despite importance to U.S. economy, community colleges lack comprehensive way to tell our story
Why, oh why, oh why?

• Based on federal data collection, what is the community college completion rate?
  - A: 20%  3-year rate
  - B: 33%  4-year rate
  - C: 42%  3-year rate inclusive of transfer
  - D: All of the Above
Why, oh why, oh why?

- Even with the 3 ways to define completion, what percentage of our students does this measure?
  - Answer: About 30%
National climate and completion agenda or straight to measures.
We urge the creation of a robust culture of accountability and transparency throughout higher education. Every one of our goals, from improving access and affordability to enhancing quality and innovation, will be more easily achieved if higher education institutions embrace and implement serious accountability measures.”

Source: A Test of Leadership: Charting the Future of U.S. Higher Education
A Report of the Commission Appointed by Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings
“By 2020, America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world... So tonight I ask every American to commit to at least one year or more of higher education or career training... every American will need to get more than a high school diploma.”

-President Barack Obama
Address to Joint Session of Congress
February 24, 2009
The VFA is composed of measures in 3 broad areas:

- Student Progress and Outcomes
- CTE (Career and Technical Education)
- ABE (Adult Basic Education)
Enter VFA: More Appropriate Measures
Where are we now?

» The VFA Data Tool
The first comprehensive national accountability system created by community colleges, for community colleges
Where are we now?

» Beta Testing and Live Launch

» Transition to “AACC Owned and Operated”