THE CHALLENGE
Student success and achievement in higher education are a top priority for colleges and universities, but not enough college students are graduating with degrees.

CALL TO ACTION
NGLC’s Building Blocks for College Completion Program supported innovators across the country in exploring how to scale promising technologies to improve learning outcomes, raise student retention and persistence rates, and increase awareness of performance in real time.

BY THE NUMBERS
October 2010 RFP Issued • March 2011 Awards Made

600 Proposals Received
50 Finalists Selected
29 Grant Recipients

$16,152,744 Total Funding

GRANT RECIPIENTS

69,277 students
282 institutions
1,152 instructors

INNOVATIONS TO WATCH

Blended Learning Toolkit
University of Central Florida

ECoach
University of Michigan Department of Physics

Hybrid Lab Courses
California State University, Northridge

U Do the Math
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

U-Pace
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

THE RESULTS

600 Proposals
50 Finalists
29 Grant Recipients

6,152,744 Total Funding

7 Lessons Learned

1. Innovations that required specific instructional changes achieved greatest impact.
   Action: Implement whole-course models with entirely new instruction & curricula enabled by tech.

2. Active, mastery-based learning & early warning signals led to stronger student outcomes.
   Action: Replace lectures with engaging, data-based instruction where students advance when proficient.

3. Teams from the most successful projects provided active in-person support to instructors.
   Action: Engage faculty early & provide ongoing training & resources.

4. Students’ lack of tech readiness was a commonly cited challenge.
   Action: Involve students in the innovation’s design, convey its relevance & provide training.

5. Projects overcame operational roadblocks with leadership support, pre-planning & data management.
   Action: Address technical & institutional operability as well as academic requirements.

6. Innovations were adapted three to five times & worked within college-wide operational systems.
   Action: Share resources & best practices in project communities to accelerate adoption & efficiency.

7. Turnover can negatively affect long-term continuation.
   Action: Create a succession plan, provide ongoing support & advance institutional goals.

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7 Open course materials
9 Blended learning programs
7 Deeper learning strategies
6 Learning analytics

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