

# THE STATE OF COLLEGE ACCESS AND COMPLETION

Improving College Success  
for Students from  
Underrepresented Groups

*Edited by  
Laura W. Perna and  
Anthony P. Jones*

# CONTENTS

<i>Foreword</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>xi</i>
1 Introduction: Improving Postsecondary Access, Persistence, and Completion in the United States: Setting the Stage <i>Anthony P. Jones</i>	1
2 Improving College Access and Choice <i>Laura W. Perna and Elizabeth R. Kurban</i>	10
3 Pathways to College for Underserved and Nontraditional Students: Lessons from Research, Policy, and Practice <i>Debra D. Bragg</i>	34
4 Proficiency Approaches for Making More Students College and Career Ready <i>David T. Conley</i>	57
5 The Role of Remedial and Developmental Courses in Access and Persistence <i>Bridget Terry Long and Angela Boatman</i>	77
6 The Role of Finances in Postsecondary Access and Success <i>Donald E. Heller</i>	96

vi Contents

7	The Potential of Community Colleges to Increase Bachelor's Degree Attainment Rates <i>Tatiana Melguizo, Gregory Kienzl, and Holly Kosiewicz</i>	115
8	Longitudinal Pathways to College Persistence and Completion: Student, Institutional, and Public Policy Perspectives <i>Donald Hossler, Afet Dunder, and Douglas T. Shapiro</i>	140
9	Access, Persistence, and Completion in the State Context <i>James C. Hearn, Anthony P. Jones, and Elizabeth R. Kurban</i>	166
10	Nonexperimental Designs and Causal Analyses of College Access, Persistence, and Completion <i>Stephen L. DesJardins and Allyson Flaster</i>	190
11	Conclusions: Improving College Access, Persistence, and Completion: Lessons Learned <i>Laura W. Perna</i>	208
	<i>Contributor Biographies</i>	225
	<i>Index</i>	233