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## White House Seeks to Help Expand Education Opportunity

(Continued On Page 2)

The University of Chicago, for example, has pledged \$10 million for its College Success Initiative, which will reach 10,000 high schools

across the next 10 years. Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts has a program that offers full scholarships for low-income, non-traditional age college students. Scripps College in California will increase its financial aid and scholarship endowment by \$35 million over the next five years. Boston's Bunker Hill Community College will allow incoming freshmen to start remediation before their first semester. College Board is setting up partnerships to waive student application fees.

Morehouse is piloting an alternative to the SAI ACT. Howard is boosting success among low-income STEM students and matching Pell Grants by 100 percent. Morgan State is expanding its pipeline partnership with the Community College of Baltimore College, as well as an initiative to help students who've left the university in good academic standing complete their degrees. And Spelman will continue to fundraise to financially support upperclassmen may not graduate due to the recession.

Absent from the summit is the trouble of ballooning college costs. The omission is deliberate: back in August, the president made college affordability, quality, and affordability his personal undertaking. His plan includes the creation of a College Scorecard (by 2015, which will be based on access, affordability, and outcomes), linking student's financial aid to their class completion, bolstering technology, and more.

The institutions and organizations involved will reconvene next year, when the White House will evaluate their progress and more entities will be invited to join the strategy.

Before introducing the president at the summit, Mrs. Obama shared her own college experience, painting the story of a first-generation college freshman who didn't know how to navigate a campus and didn't see anyone with whom she could identify.

"I didn't even bring the right sized sheets for my dorm room bed. I was a little overwhelmed and a little isolated. But then I had an opportunity to participate in a three-week, on-campus orientation program that helped me get a feel for the rhythm of college life," she said. "And once school started, I discovered the campus cultural center... where I found students and staff who came from families and communities that were similar to my own. They were there to answer the questions I was too embarrassed to ask anyone else. And if it weren't for those resources and the friends and the mentors, I honestly don't know how I would have made it through college."

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President Barack Obama talks with Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy of Spain following their bilateral meeting in the Oval Office, Jan. 13. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

## North Carolina Central University Art Museum Exhibits Student Art from Durham Public Schools

The North Carolina Central University Art Museum will present "Durham's Finest" Jan. 12-31, an exhibition of outstanding student artwork from Durham Public Schools (DPS).

The juried show will feature four works of two-dimensional art from each school. Selected examples of three-dimensional artwork will also be featured.

The exhibit follows the progression and artistic development of the students from pre-kindergarten through high school. By hosting the school system's only district-wide art exhibit, NCCU Art Museum gives the students the rare opportunity to see their artwork in a professional gallery setting.

An opening reception will take place Sunday, Jan. 12, from 2-4 p.m. for the student artists, their families, friends and teachers, school officials and board members from DPS and NCCU. The reception is free and open to the public.

Welcoming remarks and announcements of three Purchase Awards will be made by Kenneth Rodgers, director of the NCCU Art Museum, and Mary Casey, director of K-12 Arts Education for DPS.

After the reception, "Durham's Finest" will remain open through Jan. 31 during the museum's regular operating hours, which are Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, 2-4 p.m.

The museum is closed on Saturdays, Mondays and university holidays. Group visits may be arranged. For more information, contact Rodgers at 919-530-5079 or [kr Rodgers@nccu.edu](mailto:kr Rodgers@nccu.edu).

