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## SOUTHERN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESS RELEASE

### Southern State Joins College Completion Accelerator to Boost Student Outcomes

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Southern State Community College has joined the Complete College Accelerator, an ambitious nationwide initiative to improve student success and close gaps in college access and completion.

Southern State is one of 11 state partners, just over 80 higher education institutions nationwide, to join Complete College America, a national nonprofit organization on a mission to raise postsecondary attainment nationally, in the initial Complete College Accelerator cohort.

With funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Intermediaries for Scale (IFS) initiative, Complete College America will work with eleven state agencies over the next four years to implement research-based practices designed to dramatically increase college completion on a statewide scale.

"We are pleased to have been selected in this highly competitive process," says Southern State's Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Erika Goodwin. "We are excited to collaborate with institutional teams to improve college completion outcomes for populations of students who have historically been excluded from higher education," she adds.

Utilizing funding from the national grant program, Southern State will work with Complete College America to conduct assessments of institutional performance, build data capacity, and develop and implement

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As part of the national Complete College Accelerator network, Southern State will have access to innovations and best practices from other participating programs and services possible.

Nationally, about 90% of students from under-resourced families do not graduate within six

alone four. According to [NASPA's Center for First-Generation Student Success](#), 56% of first-generation college students had not attained a postsecondary credential after six years. Research from the [U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics](#) shows that 6-year graduation rates for

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"While persistence and retention are finally returning to pre-pandemic levels at both two-year and four-year institutions, there are troubling gaps in access, completion, wo

