

## Second Funding Cycle for Next Generation Learning Challenges \$12 Million Grant Competition is Now Open

When we launched [Next Generation Learning Challenges](#) (NGLC) last year, we pledged to identify and scale evidence-based, technology-enabled approaches to dramatically improve college readiness and completion. With two full waves of funding behind us, and a third underway, we are incredibly enthusiastic about the innovative work we are seeing around the country. However, much remains to be done if promising solutions are to be implemented and scaled at the pace needed to successfully address the nation’s college readiness and completion issues.

NGLC’s third wave of funding, totaling \$12 million, is seeking comprehensive, breakthrough models that fundamentally change the way education is designed and delivered across secondary and postsecondary institutions. “Wave III” seeks solutions that apply technology to personalize students’ learning experiences, thereby improving the speed and depth by which they develop and master critical knowledge and skills. This is an important grant opportunity, and we encourage you to reach out to your colleagues and networks and invite to [learn more](#).

### [THE WAVE III CHALLENGE: BREAKTHROUGH MODELS FOR COLLEGE READINESS AND COMPLETION](#)

The emphasis for Wave III is on WHOLE school models and COMPLETE degree programs that significantly reorganize the learning process and redefine student experiences.

Wave III includes two separate Requests for Proposals. The first round of applications, submitted in November, produced some very compelling examples -- a clear demonstration that the field is ready to respond to the high bar for transformational change we set in the Wave III RFPs. There are two remaining opportunities to submit proposals.

#### [Wave IIIa: Breakthrough School Models for College Readiness](#)

This request for proposals seeks both district and charter school innovators who recognize the potential of technology-enabled models to catalyze transformative change and who plan to launch new, scalable whole-school models that combine the best aspects of brick-and-mortar and online learning to result in more personalized, mastery-based, blended learning. Applicants looking to open new schools serving students in grades 6-12 are eligible to apply.

#### [Wave IIIb: Breakthrough Models for College Completion](#)

This request for proposals seeks to identify innovations that stimulate the development of new, next generation online and blended programs that lead to high-quality, affordable associate’s or bachelor’s degrees. Accredited public, private nonprofit, or for-profit institutions of higher education, or coalitions or consortia of higher education institutions, are eligible to apply.

#### Key Application Dates

Submission Date	2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase Notification	Winners Notified	Models Should Open In
February 9, 2012	March 9, 2012	May 31, 2012	Fall 2012 or Fall 2013
June 8, 2012	July 8, 2012	September 30, 2012	Fall 2013

More information is available by visiting the [NGLC website](#).

### **Program Officer Chats**

Additionally, NGLC is offering two “program officer chats” where interested parties will have the opportunity to ask NGLC staff questions related to the RFPs.

If you miss the live chat, note that each chat will be archived and available for viewing on the NGLC [Archived Events](#) page. For more information, visit the [Upcoming Events](#) page.

<b>December 13, 2011, 4:00 p.m. EDT</b>	<b>December 15, 2011, 3:00 p.m. EDT</b>
Wave IIIa: Breakthrough School Models for College Readiness	Wave IIIb: Breakthrough Models for College Completion

We recognize that this third wave of funding poses considerable challenges as well as a significant opportunity to effect meaningful change. We are encouraged by the initial Wave III proposals we’ve reviewed and seek to make as many innovators aware of this unique grant opportunity as possible. We hope that you can help us spread the word.

Please feel free to contact us directly with any questions you have, and we’ll be happy to help get them answered. Thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely,

The League for Innovation in the Community College  
480-705-8200

### **BACKGROUND**

[NGLC](#) is a collaborative, multi-year initiative created to address the barriers to educational innovation and tap the potential of technology to dramatically improve college readiness and completion in the United States, especially among low-income and minority students. NGLC is led by EDUCAUSE in partnership with the League for Innovation in the Community College, the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL), and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

To date, NGLC, with its funding partners, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, has awarded \$17.5 million in grants to 48 organizations and institutions in 33 states, the District of Columbia, and the United Kingdom.