

THE PELL INSTITUTE
for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education

NEWS RELEASE

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Pell Lauds Travelers EDGE as “Cutting Edge” National Partnership Model for Increasing Bachelor’s Degree Attainment and Workforce Development

Travelers Program Empowers Disadvantaged Students through Dedicated Support in Classrooms and Cubicles

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 7, 2013 – Amid budget negotiations that could impact education funding across the country, The Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education today released an in-depth report on The Travelers Companies, Inc.’s signature education program, Travelers EDGE (Empowering Dreams for Graduation and Employment), praising it as a leading corporate college access and professional development program to help underrepresented students succeed. The program could serve as a national model for other companies to follow.

The report, [“Travelers EDGE: A Model on The Cutting Edge of Corporate College Access and Success Support.”](#) credits the program for its broad reach approach that funds general academic and career awareness programs for middle- and high-school students, and applauds its direct aid in helping 66 underrepresented students obtain bachelor’s degrees – 16 of whom were hired by Travelers.

The study notes that many students feel Travelers EDGE “truly cares about [their] development,” and the report recognizes the program’s “supportive culture” that has led many student interns to want to continue working at Travelers.

Abby Miller, who researched Travelers EDGE and subsequently co-authored the report, said, “Travelers is not only one of the nation’s largest insurers, but also a very strong corporate citizen. Through Travelers EDGE and the company’s broad commitment to education, Travelers

is improving opportunities for today's students and preparing tomorrow's business leaders. This program fosters collaboration between the private sector and our nation's education system and sets a high benchmark by which we're creating pathways to success for the next generation."

"We are pleased with the impact of Travelers EDGE and will work to bring even more Travelers EDGE scholars into the program to grow and develop our next generation of talent and leaders," said Marlene Ibsen, Vice President of Community Relations for Travelers. "We could not be more proud of the students, and we are incredibly grateful to our partners for their commitment to this program. Our work in education in Connecticut, Minnesota and Maryland would not have been possible without their hard work and support."

Report authors also praise the program's ongoing review and improvement process: "Measuring and assessing results is ingrained in the core of the Travelers corporate culture...The continuing development of the Travelers EDGE program in a receptive culture of continuous program improvement establishes Travelers EDGE as a model on the 'cutting edge' of corporate college access and success support."

Teresa Frausto, a Travelers EDGE scholar and alumna who is now employed by Travelers as an underwriter, stresses the impact and importance of the program: "Travelers EDGE has helped me discover my career path and passion in life. I received endless opportunities and developed transferable skills that I apply to my job every day."

To read the full report, please visit the [Pell Institute's website](#). For more information on Travelers work in the community, please visit www.travelers.com/community.

About the Pell Institute

The Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education conducts and disseminates research and policy analysis to encourage policymakers, educators, and the public to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for low-income, first-generation, and disabled college students. The Pell Institute is the first research institute to specifically address the issues impacting educational opportunity for this growing population. To examine these issues, the Pell Institute conducts independent research in three areas: access, success, and innovation.

About Travelers EDGE

Established in 2007, Travelers EDGE (Empowering Dreams for Graduation and Employment) provides a holistic approach to education through partnerships with colleges, universities and community-based programs to increase the pipeline of underrepresented students completing

bachelor's degrees.. Travelers EDGE partnerships are currently in Connecticut, Maryland and Minnesota.

About Travelers

The Travelers Companies, Inc. is a leading provider of property casualty insurance for [auto](#), [home](#) and [business](#). The company's diverse business lines offer its global customers a wide range of coverage sold primarily through independent agents and brokers. A component of the Dow Jones Industrial Average, Travelers has more than 30,000 employees and operations in the United States and selected international markets. The company generated revenues of approximately \$25 billion in 2011. For more information, visit www.travelers.com.