Key Facts and Figures

Getting Ready for College

- At **82 percent**, the overall U.S. high school graduation rate is at its highest level ever, but it varies by race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and gender.
- The percentage of high school students enrolling in college within a few months of graduation has grown to 68 percent.
- Over **85 percent** of high school graduates eventually spend some time in college.
- Many incoming college students, whether recent high school graduates or adults, are academically unprepared for college: **one-half** of all college students take remedial courses.
- Despite increasing high school graduation and college enrollment rates, an anticipated decline in the eighteen-year-old population implies that the number of high school graduates entering college over the next decade will remain flat at about 3.3 million annually.
- The 20 percent of American adults who have earned some college credit but no credential represent a significant component of potential adult college students.