

## PATHWAY 2 TOMORROW

### Sample Proposal

*Note: This is a sample proposal only. Submitted proposals are not required to use this format or style. The description of each component, included here as reference, is not required as part of your proposal.*

#### **Part 1 - Submitter Information**

Submitter: Name, Title & Organization (if applicable)

Contact: Phone & Email

#### **Part 2 - Submission Information**

Proposal Title: Expanding In-School Deferment to Accelerated Learning Providers

#### **Part 3 - Introduction**

*(In simple terms, state the problem that your policy or idea will address or the need you will fulfill. Provide evidence as to why this problem is important. Cite what others have accomplished in this area, if relevant, and your expertise to address it.)*

With nearly half of college graduates now working in jobs that don't require a degree, skills-based training plays a critical role in addressing chronic underemployment—and creating a pathway to higher wages. The role of new models in higher education is becoming increasingly important as student loan debt surpasses \$1.5 trillion, and a growing body of research indicates that debt has a significant adverse impact on students' economic decisions. Graduates with debt are less likely to buy a home, start a new business, or save for retirement.

Students enrolled in professional or graduate programs at colleges and universities typically have the opportunity to apply for in-school deferment of loans, postponing repayment until graduation. Sadly, loan deferment often contributes to spiraling debt loads as graduates pursue JDs or MBAs to make good on prior educational investments—only to emerge with more debt, and grim job prospects.

#### **Part 4 - Idea Description**

*(Briefly state your proposal idea as a solution to the problem, or answer to the need. Address your unique, unusual, distinctive, innovative, or novel aspects of the approach.)*

Currently, deferment is limited to institutions participating in the Federal Student Aid programs. Expanding loan deferment to cover students enrolled in non-accredited programs would enable students to avail themselves of shorter, lower-cost alternatives to graduate school—upskilling undergraduate credentials, without taking on the debt often associated with postgraduate degrees.

## **Part 5 - Anticipated Outcomes**

*(Conclude with a statement of benefits or anticipated outcomes along with a description of who will benefit and how.)*

Faster, cheaper alternatives to college have the potential to connect individuals with employment opportunities – and close skill gaps in fast-growing industry sectors – more effectively, and efficiently, than traditional higher education. An expansion of in-school deferment would enable more students to pursue these opportunities by alleviating the burden of debt.

As an example, more than three-quarters of students in accelerated computer science training programs have at least a bachelor's degree. We also know that more than two-thirds of college graduates have student debt. With the number of coding bootcamp graduates at 23,000 and growing, this policy could help to alleviate the burden of debt for more than ten thousand students across the country.