Breakthrough Models Incubator 2015
Eligibility Requirements

Basic Eligibility

1. Accredited institutions awarding AA or BA/BS degrees (or systems comprising such institutions) are eligible to apply for the Breakthrough Models Incubator.

2. Top-level leadership is critical to the success of innovative initiatives that have the potential to ignite institutional transformation. To be eligible for consideration, the institution must certify that the following members of its leadership team are available and willing to fully participate in all Incubator activities, including the convening scheduled for July 28-31, 2015, in Washington, D.C.: the provost or chief academic officer, chief financial officer, chief information officer, at least one representative of the faculty, the director of financial aid and the director of enrollment management/registrar’s office. This requirement is firm. There are two additional slots for each selected team to invite other members of their institutional team who can best support the initiative. Filling these slots is optional.

To advance your plan’s implementation on the ground or enable your institution to increase the reach of competency-based education (CBE) across the institution, we have set aside two slots for rising star leaders at your institution in the Breakthrough Models Academy. While this is a competitively selected program, if your team is accepted to the Incubator, we will waive the application process for up to two rising star leaders at your institution. The cost for supporting leaders at the Academy is $2,500 per person plus travel and accommodations. You will need to identify and commit to support at least one person from your institution who will be attending the Breakthrough Models Academy in your application for the Breakthrough Models Incubator. You may nominate up to two individuals. Additional information about the Breakthrough Models Academy can be found in the Application document in this packet and on our website. For more information about the Academy and how BMI teams used Academy placements to their advantage, please contact Holly Morris (hmorris@educause.edu).

Institutional Readiness Factors

The review process will take the following factors into account.
**Leadership**

There is a demonstrated commitment to developing a competency-based education model and a new business model to support it, and a willingness to envision potential impacts from the model across much or all of the institution.

The institution has proven success designing and executing innovative initiatives and programs focused on improving college access, affordability, and/or completion.

**Boldness**

The institution’s strategic vision reflects boldness, cohesiveness, and a readiness to challenge traditional approaches to postsecondary learning and business model design.

**Culture of Evidence and Continuous Improvement/Innovation**

The institution has the ability (or can demonstrate the commitment) to provide the data and analysis it will need to assess learning and document impacts. Preference will be given to institutions that demonstrate they are learning organizations with a strong culture of assessment from the classroom to the boardroom and a strong culture of evidence-driven improvement and innovation.

**Faculty Engagement and Support**

The institution has a history of broad faculty engagement and support for new, cross-organizational strategies. The institution can demonstrate faculty interest and readiness to develop and execute a competency-based education model that may include new roles and responsibilities.

**Sustainability**

The institution can demonstrate the ability to develop and implement sustainable solutions to challenges and agrees to develop and implement a sustainable pathway to fund its model.

**Commitments in Joining the Incubator**

1. **Evaluation.** The institution commits to designing and implementing a credible, coherent, and executable plan to launch a competency-based education model and new business model to support it, evaluate its experience within one year of completing the Incubator program, and submit a milestone report to NGLC within one year of launching their CBE model. The institution agrees to participate in research-study activities sponsored by NGLC or the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that relate to its experience in the Incubator for up to three years after participating in the Incubator.

2. **Intellectual Property.** With the guidance and support of EDUCAUSE/Next
Generation Learning Challenges, the 2015 BMI cohort will collectively develop a resource that is valuable to the Incubator teams and is available under a Creative Commons Attribution license to all institutions. As an example, the 2013 Cohort sparked development of a webinar and accompanying template that helps institutions shift their perspective on finance from budgeting to investing to secure specific returns. Institutions may develop other intellectual property in the course of participating in the Incubator. NGLC asks that institutions consider licensing any other models, tools, and materials directly developed as a result of participation in the Incubator under a Creative Commons Attribution license. This helps us advance our goal of accelerating the adoption of promising new models and technology to boost completion rates, improve affordability, and increase access, particularly for underserved learner populations. Intellectual property developed by an institution previously or separately from its Incubator participation remains with the institution.

3. **Knowledge Building.** The institution agrees to work with our the NGLC Knowledge Management team through June 2017 to publish blog posts and articles about its Incubator experience. This commitment may also include presenting at an EDUCAUSE event or other event.

**Questions about BMI 2015?**

Register here to join us on January 6 at 1:00 pm (ET) for a pre-application webinar, where we will answer your questions or contact Director of Postsecondary Model Development and Adoption Holly Morris.

Public Agenda, through the Lumina Foundation, is offering institutions further along in their work on competency-based education an opportunity to work collaboratively to advance the field through the Competency Based Education Network. If your institution is just beginning its exploration of CBE, you may want to consider the CAEL Jumpstart program.

**Ready to Apply?**

Access the application materials here.

**About NGLC**

In order to address the barriers to educational innovation and to tap the potential of technology, EDUCAUSE, the League for Innovation in the Community College, the International Council for K-12 Online Learning, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation launched the Next Generation Learning Challenges initiative in October 2010. NGLC seeks to dramatically improve college readiness and completion in the United States, particularly among low-income individuals, through the applied use of technology.
The initiative provides investment capital, builds evidence, and fosters an active community of innovators and adopters in pursuit of this goal. To date NGLC has awarded approximately $56 million in grants. For additional information about Next Generation Learning Challenges, please visit our [website](#). Follow the links below for more information about the [Breakthrough Models Incubator](#) (for leadership teams) or the [Breakthrough Models Academy](#) (for individuals), or contact Director of Postsecondary Model Development and Adoption [Holly Morris](#).