

# THE PELL INSTITUTE

for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Reflections on Pell: Championing Social Justice through 40 Years of Educational Opportunity**

June, 2013 – To commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pell Grant, the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education is proud to announce the release of “Reflections on Pell: Championing Social Justice through 40 Years of Educational Opportunity.” The volume is composed of personal reflections, historical essays, and policy recommendations expressing the powerful contribution the Pell Grants have made in the lives of countless students over the last four decades as well as deep concern about the future and sustainability of the program. “This volume has advanced the fight for support for equal access to opportunity in higher education for all,” said Margaret Cahalan, director of the Pell Institute. “We thank the contributors for their passion, commitment, and expertise.”

A special expression of gratitude is extended to Senator Claiborne Pell’s family – particularly for the reflections from his daughter, Dallas Pell, and the involvement and preface to this collection from his grandson, Clay Pell – who continue the Senator’s goal of social justice and equal access to higher education for all.

We are also grateful to Lumina Foundation whose generous funding made this project possible. We thank them for valuing and providing funding support for advocacy and research projects that inform practitioners and policymakers.

“We’re very proud to support this effort, and to help mark this milestone of the Pell program,” said Jamie Merisotis, Lumina’s president and CEO. “The Pell grant has been – and continues to be – an essential step in the educational opportunity ladder for tens of millions of Americans. We need it more than ever.”

This volume celebrates a remarkable milestone in recent American history: the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the simple proposition that every American “with the moxie and the drive” should be able to go to college – resulting in 60 million Pell Grant recipients since 1972. In his preface, Clay Pell says that “more than ever, Pell Grant recipients are our future and represent our changing face as a nation.... As our generation shapes the American Dream in the coming years, one commitment will become more essential than ever before: opening these doors of knowledge and opportunity to all.”

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The Pell Institute, sponsored by the Council for Opportunity in Education, conducts and disseminates research and policy analysis to encourage policymakers, educators, and the public to improve educational opportunities and outcomes of low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities. The Pell Institute is the first research institute to specifically examine the issues affecting educational opportunity for this growing population.